

Product Data Sheet 16

AntiCrack

1 Product Description

Armourcoat AntiCrack is a fibre and resin reinforced gypsum skim-coat plaster which resists cracking at board joints and significantly improves the impact resistance and durability of drywall construction.

AntiCrack plaster is designed for use over plasterboard (drywall). The product can also be used over a base coat plaster system such as Armourcoat Squash Court Base Coat, to provide a solid, crack resistant foundation for the application of Armourcoat Surface Finishes.

The application of AntiCrack will significantly improve crack resistance, but will not prevent cracking on a finished substrate due to structural movement.

Use only on dry interior areas.

2 Properties

- Significantly improves the impact resistance and durability of drywall construction to provide a strong foundation for Armourcoat Surface Finishes.
- Resists cracking at board joints due to the high tensile strength of the product.
- Anchors beads, stop beads, shadow gap beads, any sort of reinforcement and finishing bead details far better than screws and jointing compound.
- Much higher impact strength than plasterboard or jointing compound.
- Enables substrates to be true to the high specification required for Polished Plaster – eliminates flaring around beads.
- No taping or jointing required except in the US market where code designates a Level 1 drywall finish.
- Non-combustible as supplied or when applied.

3 Health And Safety

- AntiCrack is a powdered product and a dust mask should always be worn when mixing or handling the product.
- AntiCrack contains hydrated lime and fibres that will act as irritants. Wear protective clothing and if

contact occurs wash immediately with soap and water.

- AntiCrack is a non-combustible mineral product and does not give off any VOCs.

4 Suitable Substrates

AntiCrack is suitable for application directly to unsealed plasterboard and to fresh gypsum basecoat plasters such as the Armourcoat Squash Court Basecoat or other weaker readily available basecoat plasters

Armourcoat AntiCrack is not suitable for external use.

Armourcoat AntiCrack is not suitable for use directly over MDF or plywood. These should be lined with a layer of plasterboard first.

4.1 Beads

Armourcoat AntiCrack can be used in conjunction with galvanized, powder coated, stainless steel and plastic beads.

Untreated aluminium beads must be treated with an aluminium primer prior to application otherwise oxidation of the surface of the aluminium will occur.

5. Applying Anticrack

5.1 Thickness

Armourcoat AntiCrack is applied directly over plasterboard (drywall) to a minimum thickness of 3 mm (1/8"). The localized thickness will be greater where the boards have tapered edges and at this point the thickness will be about 5mm, which will further enhance the tensile strength at the joint.

It is critical that the material is applied to the correct thickness to offer optimum performance. If the AntiCrack is applied too thinly there will be insufficient fibres bridging the plasterboard joints and cracking could occur.

Where greater thickness is required, the first layer should be applied and ruled off with a featheredge rule. Once this layer has started to become firm, a final layer of 2-3 mm can be applied over the surface. AntiCrack can be applied up to a thickness of 8-10 mm (3/8").

Be wary of applying excessive thickness of material over plasterboard as the weight of the material can start to pull the paper off the face of the plasterboard.

With drywall construction all the edge and corner beads sit 3 mm (1/8") proud of the main plasterboard face. Therefore by applying a 3 mm layer of AntiCrack over the entire surface you will achieve a flat substrate without the problem of flaring at the beads that is inherent with taping and jointing.

5.2 Drying Time – Very Important

It is ESSENTIAL that AntiCrack is allowed to dry fully before proceeding in order for the resin in AntiCrack to work – think in terms of the strengths of wet glue vs. dry glue

Greater thickness = longer drying time. A good flow of dry air will accelerate the drying process – heat alone will not work. Use large fans and DO NOT point heaters directly at the wall.

With standard thickness of between 3 and 5mm expect to leave AntiCrack to dry for 48 hours in a well-ventilated room at 20°C (68°F).

Applying Keycoat over AntiCrack before it has dried will slow the drying process further. Moisture trapped in deeper areas, particularly the board joints, will result in these areas having less suction and this can affect the final pattern of the wall finish.

5.3 Mixing Instructions

Pour 9-10 litres (approximately 2.5 US gallons) of water into a mixing bucket.

Pour in the contents of one 25 kg sack and mix with a mechanical mixer for 2-3 minutes, or until you have a consistent lump-free mix. Leave to stand for a further 2-3 minutes and remix for 20-30 seconds before use.

When mixed correctly, the material should spread easily without slumping.

Where greater build thickness is required, the water content can be reduced to about 8.0 litres (2.1 US gallons) per sack.

5.4 Application Instructions

When applying the material to plasterboard (drywall) with tapered edge boards, it is important to fill out and reinforce the joints with fibre tape, **before** skimming the entire surface of the wall.

Armourcoat AntiCrack is best applied with a 14" trowel.

- 1 Apply a strip of 50 mm (2") adhesive backed fibre-mesh joint tape over the plasterboard (drywall) joints. Ensure the tape is securely stuck to both board surfaces.
- 2 Mix the material in accordance with the mixing instructions and apply to the recessed joints. Push the AntiCrack through the fibre tape to fill the joints until the it is flush with the main surface of the plasterboard (drywall).
- 3 Leave the material until it has become firm (30–40 minutes) and then apply a consistent 3 mm (1/8") layer over the entire surface of the wall.
- 4 Once the material has been applied, trowel it both vertically and horizontally to ensure it is flat and then leave it to firm slightly.

- 5 Once the material has firmed up slightly, pass a trowel lightly over the surface to close it down.

- 6 If a smoother finish is required for the application of Spatulata, take a wet sponge faced float and scour the surface of the AntiCrack in a circular motion and then trowel down to a smoother surface.

For all finishes other than Spatulata it is not necessary to achieve a perfectly smooth finish. Overall flatness is the important factor as any slight surface texture in the AntiCrack will be covered by the Keycoat.

6 Coverage Rates

Supplied in 25 Kg bags

Coverage of 1 bag = 6 m² (60 feet²) at thickness of 4 mm Minimum thickness = 3 mm (1/8")

7 Storage

Store in good dry conditions between 5 – 25°C. The shelf life of AntiCrack in unopened original packaging, under correct storage conditions is 6 months from date of manufacture.

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