

Hollowcore 101



Oldcastle Precast®
Building Systems

Cementitious Underlayments complete your hollowcore project

Underlayments can be a cost effective way in which to prepare hollow core plank for the installation of floor coverings. Depending on the type of underlayment specified, the material is poured or pumped onto the floor, providing a flat durable surface with minimum time and installation cost.

Because cement-based underlayments can be applied in thinner applications than gypsum-based underlayments, less material is used. A feather edge can be used in transition areas.

The curing time is typically hours for cement-based products as opposed to days for gypsum. This saves time and money on the job site and allows floor coverings to be installed sooner.

Cement-based underlayments provide a stronger, more durable surface, but are not meant as the final wearing surface. Higher compressive strengths mean that cement-based products provide a more durable, abrasion resistant surface than gypsum-based products.

Common Practice: Underlayments

Whether you know it or not, floors are the

key element when it comes to architectural freedom and design: their load bearing capacity has a direct influence on the need for partition walls and other structural elements of a building. Hollowcore slabs are prestressed floor elements with voids. The excellent load-bearing capacity and structural efficiency allows you to build large areas with fewer partition walls. Ultimately, this means greater freedom in design and architecture during and after construction as well as savings in material costs.

See our web site for additional topics on hollowcore plank: camber, openings, applications, finished floors, specifying and more.

Locations:

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Floor preparation is just as important as the selection and installation of final floor covering or finishing. Self-leveling cementitious underlayments offer better life cycle cost versus gypsum products by providing greater strength and bond. They withstand moisture without breaking down and are naturally mold and mildew resistant.

The material can be applied from a featheredge to several inches in thickness. Primers are used with some products to prep the floor. Follow the recommendations of the underlayment manufacturer.

Cementitious underlayments follow ACI guidelines regarding warm and cold weather placement procedures. Hot temperatures reduce working time and cold weather will have a retarding effect on set times.



Get to know more about ProSpec® Underlayments

Important Considerations about Installation

Floor preparation is critical for successful underlayment installation. The contractor should ensure that the substrate is properly prepared prior to the application of Level Set products. The plank surface must be solid, clean, free of oil, wax, grease, sealers, curing compounds, asphalt, paint, dirt, loose surface material and any contaminate that will act as a bond breaker.

Level Set (A ProSpec product) is self curing and walkable in 3-4 hours and will accept floor coverings in 16 hours. Low temperature or high humidity may delay curing, so consult floor covering manufacturer for guidance as related to allowable sub floor moisture content. *ProSpec® is manufactured by Bonsal American, an Oldcastle company. For more information go to www.prospec.com.*

	Gypsum-based Underlayments	Cement-based Underlayments
Application thickness	at least 1 inch	at least 1/8 inch
Can be applied over wood	No	Yes
Moisture resistant	No	Yes
Supports mold growth	Yes	No
Compressive strength	Low	High
Curing time required before application of floor covering	4-5 days	14-16 hours

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