

1. PRODUCT NAME

TEC[®] EZ Level[®] Premium Self Leveling Underlayment (TA-323)



2. MANUFACTURER

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3. DESCRIPTION

EZ Level[®] Premium Self Leveling Underlayment is a cement-based, pourable, pumpable and free flowing underlayment. It is designed for smoothing and leveling most subfloors and is particularly well-suited for large areas. The resulting smooth finish is ideal for the installation of all types of floor covering, including ceramic or natural stone tile, carpet, resilient, laminate flooring and wood flooring. For interior dry area use only.

Note: All surfaces must be primed with TEC[®] Multipurpose Primer before application of EZ Level[®]. Create a minimum of 1/8" to 1/4" (3-6 mm) wide gaps where self-leveling underlayment abuts walls, columns, and fixtures by installing a self-sticking sponge rubber weather stripping or damp sand (Vacuum up sand after self leveling underlayment has cured.)

Key Features and Benefits

- Single coat application
- For featheredge up to 1½" (38 mm) depth, up to 5" (12 cm) with proper aggregate
- Can be applied directly over green concrete [15 lb. per 1000 ft² (0.07 kg/m²) per 24 hours, RH 95% or lower]
- Fast setting—dries to walkable surface in 2 to 4 hours, with flooring installation in 12 to 16 hours
- Contributes to LEED[®] project points
- High compressive strengths
- Pour or pump application
- Superior mixing and flowing characteristics
- Self-drying formula

Packaging

50 lb. plastic bags (22.68 kg)
50 lb. moisture-resistant bags (22.68 kg)

Product #3303873111
Product #3303873117

Coverage

Coverages shown are approximate. Actual coverages may vary according to substrate conditions and thickness of applications.

| Application Depth | Approximate Coverage per 50 lbs. (22.68 kg) |
|-------------------|---|
| 1/8" (3 mm) | 48-54 sq.ft. (4.4-5 m ²) |
| 1/4" (6 mm) | 24-28 sq.ft. (2.2-2.6 m ²) |
| 1/2" (12 mm) | 12-14 sq.ft. (1.1-1.3 m ²) |
| 1" (25 mm) | 6-7 sq. ft. (.55-.65 m ²) |

Suitable Substrates

When properly prepared, suitable substrates include:

- Concrete
- Pavers
- Cement backerboard
- Oriented Strand Board (OSB)
- VCT or full glued down, non-cushioned vinyl sheet goods
- Gypsum substrates—minimum tensile bond strength 72 psi (0.5 MPa)
- Ceramic, porcelain, or quarry tile
- Cement or epoxy terrazzo
- Exterior grade plywood

Substrate Preparation

General: All surfaces must be structurally sound and free from any contaminants that may inhibit bond, including oil, grease, dust, loose or peeling paint, floor finishes or waxes, etc.

Surfaces must be primed with TEC[®] Multipurpose Primer prior to installation of EZ Level[®]. See Primer label for application instructions. Minimum tensile bond strength of 72 psi (0.5 MPa) is required.

Substrate temperature should be a minimum of 43°F (6°C) during application and air temperature maintained above 50° (10°C). DO NOT cover existing building expansion or dynamic (moving) control joints or cracks. Provide joints where specified. Create 1/8" to 1/4" (3-6 mm) wide gaps where self-leveling underlayment abuts walls, columns, and fixtures by installing a self-sticking foam weather stripping tape or damp sand (vacuum up sand after self-leveling underlayment has cured). Plug all floor openings, gaps and static (non-moving) cracks and install termination dams to prevent any seepage.

Concrete: EZ Level[®] can be installed over new ("green") concrete with a maximum of 95% RH or 15 lbs per 1000 ft² (0.07 kg/m²) per 24 hours. **However, when installing moisture sensitive floor coverings refer to the finished floor manufacturer's specifications on moisture limitations.** Remediation of excessive moisture conditions must be addressed prior to the installation EZ Level[®]. To reduce moisture vapor emissions to an acceptable level, use TEC[®] The LiquiDAM[®] Penetrating Moisture Vapor Barrier prior to application of TEC[®] Multipurpose Primer and EZ Level[®] (see The LiquiDAM[®] product data sheet for details).

A successful application to concrete requires evaluation of the concrete surface and preparation to address any conditions that would prevent a good bond. Following are the four conditions you need to check for. Check for Condition 1 on the entire concrete surface. Check for Conditions 2 through 4 on several areas, typically every 100 square feet (9.3 m²) on applications of 1000 square feet (93 m²) or less and every 500 square feet (46.5 m²) on larger applications. Once you have completed the preparation method, always re-check to confirm the method worked.

Shot blasting is one of the most effective methods of removing a wide variety of contaminants, or laitance (weak concrete surface material) from concrete. A shot blast machine will remove sealers, coatings, curing compounds and other contaminants quickly and effectively, leaving behind a proper surface ready to receive the primer and underlayment. Thickness of surface removal must be deep enough to eliminate penetrated contaminants or laitance.

CONDITION 1: Surface coatings and/or contamination such as gypsum plaster, joint compound, or adhesive.

Evaluation: Look at the surface and note the type and location of the surface contamination.

Preparation: First scrape off any lumps and loose material. Then use an appropriate cleaning method for the type of contamination. Examples include:

- Coatings or paints – Application over coatings is acceptable if they are well bonded and achieve a minimum of 72 psi (0.5 MPa) tensile bond strength. Coating surface must be free from any contaminants that may inhibit bond. Poorly bonded or peeling coatings must be removed by mechanical method.
- Gypsum plaster and joint compound – Scrub with warm water and detergent to remove any remaining material. Thoroughly rinse off any residue and allow concrete surface to dry prior to application of any TEC[®] materials.
- Adhesive
 - Cutback Adhesive Residue (non-asbestos) – Application over asphalt-based cutback adhesive residue is acceptable provided the residue is well bonded and can achieve a minimum of 72 psi (0.5 MPa) tensile bond strength. Scrape and remove adhesive until all that remains is a thin, transparent layer.

Note: Mechanical removal of cutback by sanding, grinding or blasting can be hazardous since old cutback adhesive may contain asbestos. Harmful dust may result. Inhalation of asbestos dust may cause asbestosis or other serious bodily harm. Consult all applicable government agencies for rules and regulations concerning the removal of floorings and adhesives that contain asbestos.

- Tacky or pressure-sensitive adhesive – Do not apply TEC[®] underlayments over these adhesives. They must be mechanically removed by a method such as shot blasting.

CONDITION 2: Weak top layer (laitance) or damaged concrete (spalling, scaling, or crumbling).

Evaluation: First scrape the surface with a knife blade. If this produces a fine powder, then laitance is present. Then use a hammer or other heavy object to sound out weak or hollow areas. Note the areas that are weak or damaged.

Preparation: Weak or damaged concrete must be removed by mechanical method such as shot blasting.

Note: Acid washing or etching is not recommended because it is difficult to control and to fully remove contaminants and properly neutralize. The acid can penetrate into the porous concrete and chemically undermine the cement, weakening the concrete. Acid washing will not remove grease or oil.

CONDITION 3: Invisible contamination such as sealers, curing compounds or oil.

Evaluation: Sprinkle water onto the surface. If water forms droplets without absorbing immediately, the surface is probably contaminated.

Preparation: Contaminated concrete must be removed by mechanical method such as shot blasting.

- Curing Compounds
 - Petroleum based, wax emulsion or dissipating curing compounds must be removed by mechanical means such as shot blasting. If the type of curing compound is unknown, removal is required.
 - Silicate or Acrylic resin curing compounds may be acceptable. Install primer test sample areas to evaluate bond strength first. Samples must achieve 72 psi (0.5 MPa) tensile bond strength. For silicate types, all residual salts must be removed prior to application of the primer and underlayment.

CONDITION 4: Surface dirt and dust.

Evaluation: Wipe the surface with a clean dark cloth. If powder is visible on the cloth the surface is not clean enough. Note the areas that require cleaning.

Preparation: Always use a two step method to remove surface dirt and dust. First use a dry clean broom and sweep the entire surface. Do not use sweeping compounds. They can leave an oily or waxy film on the concrete surface that will prevent a proper bond. The second step should consist of one of the following:

- Vacuuming – use a heavy-duty industrial type vacuum to provide a dust-free surface.
- Water cleaning – use a stream of potable water with sufficient pressure to remove dust and dirt. When necessary, also scrub with a stiff bristled brush. Thoroughly remove all wash water and allow concrete surface to dry prior to application of any TEC® materials.
- Detergent water cleaning – Using a stiff bristled brush or broom, scrub the entire concrete surface with a cleaning product intended for concrete or a solution of at least 4 ounces (118 mL) of trisodium phosphate per gallon (3.78 L) of warm water. Before the surface dries, thoroughly flush the concrete with clean potable water to remove all wash water and residue. Allow concrete surface to dry prior to application of TEC® materials.

Single Layer of Exterior Grade Plywood or Oriented Strand Board (OSB) with Lath:

Wood subflooring must be securely fastened with screw type or ring shank nails and adhesive. Installations of exterior grade plywood or OSB (APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor OSB, Exposure 1 or better) require ¾" (19 mm) single layer minimum thickness on bridged floor joists up to 24" (60 cm) on center, with a maximum deflection of 1/360 of the span. Allow a gap of 1/8" to 1/4" (3-6 mm) between sheets of plywood or OSB. Long edges of subfloor must be tongue and groove or supported by bridging between floor joists. Use suitable TEC® surface preparation products (PerfectFinish™, VersaPatch®, Fast-Set Deep Patch) to plug all floor openings, gaps and cracks and install termination dams to prevent any seepage. Prime the floor and allow it to dry to a clear film. Next, staple ¼" (6 mm) galvanized diamond metal or plastic lath to the floor overlapping 2" (5 cm) at seams. Staple every 6" (15 cm) around the perimeter and overlaps, and every 8" (20 cm) in the field of the lath. Install EZ Level® based upon the following joist spacing in the table below:

| Joint Spacing (o.c.) | Minimum SLU thickness with lath over single layer ¾" (19 mm) tongue and groove subfloor |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 16" or less (40 cm or less) | 3/8" (9 mm) |
| 20" or less (50 cm or less) | 1/2" (12 mm) |
| 24" or less (60 cm or less) | 5/8" (15 mm) |

Double Layer of Exterior Grade Plywood without Lath: Exterior Grade Plywood subflooring must be a minimum thickness of 5/8" (15 mm), securely fastened with screw type or ring shank nails and adhesive. Maximum floor joist spacing is 16" (40 cm) o.c. with a maximum deflection of 1/360 of the span. Allow a gap of 1/8" to 1/4" (3-6 mm) between sheets of plywood. Long edges of subfloor must be tongue and groove or supported by bridging between floor joists. Install Exterior Grade Plywood underlayment, minimum thickness of 5/8" (15 mm) with 1/8" (3 mm) gap between sheets. Underlayment fasteners should not penetrate joists below. For ¾" (19 mm) tongue and groove subfloor thickness over joists 16" (40 cm) o.c., install Exterior Grade Plywood underlayment, minimum thickness is 1/2" (12 mm) with 1/8" (3 mm) gap between sheets.

Use suitable TEC® surface preparation products (PerfectFinish™, VersaPatch®, Fast-Set Deep Patch) to plug all floor openings, gaps and cracks and install termination dams to prevent any seepage. Prime the floor. Allow primer to dry to a clear film. Maintain minimum thickness for EZ Level® of 3/8" (9 mm).

Radiant Heating Systems: For radiant heat system installations, always prime the substrate before installing heating system components on the substrate surface. Heating system must be off 2 days before and kept off for 7 days after installation.

Electric Wire Systems Installed Over Substrate – EZ Level® may be used in conjunction with wire systems installed over concrete, single layer plywood/OSB subfloors with plastic lath or double layer plywood floors without lath. Follow the requirements for each substrate stated above and maintain minimum thickness of self leveling underlayment above the wire of ¼" (6 mm).

Electric Mat Systems Installed Over Substrate – Mat system configurations can vary by system manufacturer. Contact system manufacturer for installation instructions.

Hydronic Systems Installed Over Substrate – EZ Level® may be used in conjunction with hydronic systems installed over concrete or ¾" (19 mm) single layer plywood/OSB subfloors with lath. Follow the requirements for each substrate stated above and maintain minimum thickness of self leveling underlayment over the heating tubes of 1/2" (12 mm) (depending on the diameter of the tubing, two lifts of self leveling underlayment may be required). When installing ceramic tile over hydronic systems the application of a crack isolation membrane over the self leveling underlayment is recommended.

Hydronic Systems Embedded in Concrete Substrate – Follow the requirements for concrete substrate installations stated above and maintain minimum thickness of concrete over the embedded heating tubes of ¾" (19 mm). When installing ceramic tile over hydronic systems the application of a crack isolation membrane over the self leveling underlayment is recommended.

Metal Substrates: Suitable metal substrates include non-galvanized steel, stainless steel, copper, aluminum and lead. Metal substrates must be fully supported, firmly attached and rigid with no flexing or vibration. In addition to the General surface contaminants listed above, metal surfaces shall be free of rust or corrosion. Remove by sand blasting, wire brush or other mechanical means. To prevent rusting of unpainted steel, prime with TEC® Multipurpose Primer immediately after surface cleaning.

Storage

Store in cool, dry area away from direct sunlight. Do not store open containers.

Shelf Life

Maximum shelf life is from date of manufacture in unopened package.
Plastic bag: 1 year Moisture-resistant bag: 1 year

Limitations

- For interior use only.
- Not recommended for use as a wear surface.
- All surfaces must be primed with TEC® Multipurpose Primer before application of underlayment.
- Do not apply when the temperature is below 50°F (10°C).
- Do not use where hydrostatic or excessive moisture conditions exist [when is RH greater than 95% or 15 lb. per 1000 ft² (0.07 kg/m²) per 24 hours].
- Do not apply over sealed concrete, strip wood flooring, tempered hardboard (e.g. Masonite), particle board or lauan plywood.

Cautions

For medical emergency information, call 1-888-853-1758.

This Product Data Sheet has been prepared in good faith on the basis of information available at the time of publication. It is intended to provide users with information about and guidelines for the proper use and application of the covered TEC® brand product(s) under normal environmental and working conditions. Because each project is different, H.B. Fuller Construction Products Inc. cannot be responsible for the consequences of variations in such conditions, or for unforeseen conditions.

4. TECHNICAL DATA

| EZ Level® Premium Self Leveling Underlayment (TA-323) | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Description | Test Standard | Typical Results |
| 28 Day Compressive Strength | ASTM C109 | 5000 psi (34.2 MPa) |
| 28 Day Flexural Strength | ASTM C580 | 1100 psi (7.5 MPa) |
| Tensile Strength | ASTM C307 | 350-400 psi (2.4-2.7 MPa) |
| 28 Day Shrinkage | ASTM C531 (Modified) | 0.025-0.045% |

Physical Properties

| Description | |
|------------------------|--|
| Physical State | Dry powder |
| Color | Gray |
| Working Time | 15-20 minutes |
| Walkable Hardness | 2-4 hours ¹ |
| Flooring Installation* | 12-16 hours ¹ |
| Ideal Slump Range** | 11.5"-12.5" (29.2-31.7 cm) |
| Storage | Store in cool, dry area away from direct sunlight. Do not store open containers. |
| Shelf Life | Maximum shelf life is from date of manufacture in properly stored, unopened package. Plastic bag: 1 year Moisture-resistant bag: 1 year |

¹Colder temperatures and higher humidity will extend cure times.

*Flooring material installation in 3-5 days after application is dependent on thickness, drying conditions, and type of flooring.

**Ideal slump range is based in 2" (5 cm) diameter plastic/metal pipe by 4" (10 cm) high.

5. INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**Mixing**

Slowly add in the entire bag of EZ Level® to 5.25 quarts (5 L) of clean, cool water and mix with a high power drill (650 RPM). Avoid breathing dust and contact with eyes and skin. Mix thoroughly for two (2) to three (3) minutes. Scrape container's sides and remix to ensure a smooth, lump-free consistency. EZ Level® can also be used in most pump equipment, please consult your TEC® representative to verify equipment compatibility. A slump test should always be performed to ensure that the mix is homogenous and free from separation. **Do not mix EZ Level® with latex additives.** Use full bags only.

Application

Immediately after mixing, pour or pump EZ Level® onto the primed flooring surface. Spread into place with a long-handled, gauged spreader or smoother covering all high spots on the floor. Working time is approximately 15-20 minutes, depending on ambient temperature and relative humidity of air. High temperatures and low humidity will shorten working time. EZ Level® can be applied from a featheredge up to 1½" (38 mm) depth in a single application or up to 3" (7 cm) with two applications. (Wait until walkable hardness between coats. If waiting

6 hours or more between applications, surface of first layer must be primed with TEC® Multipurpose Primer.)

Up to 5" (12 cm) thickness may be poured with the addition of aggregate [well-graded, washed, dry pea gravel ⅜" (3 mm) or larger]. First mix EZ Level® Premium Self Leveling Underlayment as instructed. During placement add equal parts of the aggregate to mixed self-leveler by volume, mix until completely coated. To ensure proper bond, all aggregate and substrate must be completely coated with the underlayment mixture. Do not use sand. For further information, please contact your TEC® representative.

Clean-up

While material is still fresh, wash tools, hands, and equipment with warm soapy water.

Curing/protection

EZ Level® dries to walkable hardness in 2 to 4 hours. Most floor coverings can be installed in 12 to 16 hours. EZ Level® is cement-based, and all general rules of concrete work should be observed to achieve maximum results. In hot, dry or drafty conditions protect the installation to avoid fast water loss while curing. Never use forced air to accelerate the drying of TEC® self-leveling underlayments. For best results, always test performance of finished floor systems prior to installation.

6. AVAILABILITY

TEC® Premium Tile and Stone Installation Products are available nationwide. To locate TEC® products in your area, please contact:

Phone: 800-832-9002

Website: tecspecialty.com

7. WARRANTY

For warranty details, see your sales associate or tecspecialty.com.

8. MAINTENANCE

Not applicable

9. TECHNICAL SERVICES**Technical assistance**

Information is available by calling the Technical Support Hotline.

Toll Free: 800-832-9023

Fax: 630-952-1235

Technical and safety literature

To acquire technical and safety literature, please visit our website at tecspecialty.com.

10. FILING SYSTEM

Division 9

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