

**SURFACE PREPARATION:**  
**3 KEY ISSUES TO VERIFY**

Adherence of decorative concrete coating depends mostly on the quality of surface preparation, thus from preliminary surface analysis. These are different means to examine the surface. A good surface must be hard, stable, adherent, and clean.

**1) HARDNESS**

**How do I check surface hardness?**

The surface must be resistant to avoid cracking and detachment of coatings.



Probe surface hardness scratching it with a metallic tool in several places. The scratch must be superficial.



In case of old screeds (friable, low quality etc) probe hardness through its entire thickness. The screed must be cohesive.



If the top layer of the surface is not hard enough, you have to remove it to obtain a sound surface.

**2) ADHERENCE**

**How do I check if existing coating is sound?**

If you prefer to keep it, the old coating must be adherent to avoid further detachment.



**Glued or sealed coatings.** Check the adherence of old tiles and slabs with a hammer or a spatula.



It is necessary to remove or to fix back all the parts that sound hollow (tiles etc).



**Paint**

Probe the adherence of paint with a cross-cut test, cutting the paint with a knife or a cutter.



Make small squares 2x2 mm on total surface of 10x10 cm.

The paint is considered to be adherent if 80% of small squares are adherent. Otherwise it is necessary to remove the paint by grinding or sanding.

**Information and Technical Support:**

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**3) PROPERTIES**

**How do I clean and prepare the surface?**

The surface must be clean to ensure adherence of decorative concrete.



**Traces of plaster**

Remove traces of plaster with a painting knife. Dust off meticulously and place an adapted primer.



**Glue traces**

Remove glue traces so that they did not form a film, you can leave only residual surface coloration. Dust off meticulously. Place an adapted primer on residual acrylic adhesive or neoprene.



**Varnish, wax, paint**

Remove wax and varnish by scraping or sanding. Dust off meticulously. Wash away the paint and leave to dry. Then place an adapted primer.

**RECOMMENDATION AND WARNING**

See the most recent version of this technical specification (contact distributors). Our distributors are at your disposal for any clarification.

Performance and durability guarantees for the decorative coating may be given only in case a complete system of MERCADIER products is used (primer, product itself, sealer) and strictly according to instructions for application and maintenance of the system. Thus, the manufacturer will not be liable for poor product's performance if an application did not conform to our instructions and if the integral system was not used.

All the information, tips and advice relative to final illustration of MERCADIER products are given in good faith. They are based on knowledge and experience that MERCADIER has acquired so far regarding its products that were appropriately stored and handled, and applied in normal conditions. In practice, the differences between materials, surfaces and specific application conditions are such that provided information, written recommendations or given advice do not imply any warranty of merchantability other than the legal warranty against hidden defects.

Colours and aspects in our color charts are indicative, and cannot be considered as contractual. The same is applied for boards and panels displayed at retail outlets. It is preferable to use identical samples as much as possible. These products lead to results with subtle differences that can also arise depending on application conditions (applicator's gestures, temperature etc).