Installing LATICRETE® Hydro Ban® Over Rough Surfaces

TDS 1001

Prior to installation of the membrane walls, they can be coated and made smooth with a LATICRETE parge, skim or render coat to a wood float or light steel trowelled finish. When it comes to floors, these can generally be made smooth by screeding to falls with a LATICRETE mortar or levelled with a LATICRETE self-levelling compound. The use of LATICRETE latex mortars or dry polymer mortars will allow the dimensional correction and flattening of surfaces from a featheredge to any desired thickness. Do not use gypsum or asphalt based levelling products.

The designed dry film thickness of LATICRETE Hydro Ban® liquid applied waterproof membrane is 0.5 mm – 0.8 mm. This dry film thickness range is required for the membrane to perform as a part of an installation system under ceramic or stone tile. The background/substrate surface smoothness/flatness, planarity of finish or its regularity is an important factor in achieving this design thickness. The flatter the surface, the easier it will be to apply the membrane and the easier it will be to achieved the desired film thickness. Ideally the maximum deviation in plane must not exceed 6 mm in 3 m with no more than 1.5 mm in 0.3 m variation between high spots.

Differences in the application thickness outside the recommended range caused by surface irregularities, amongst other things, more than likely will result in:

1. A variance or extension of curing time of parts of the installation that can leave the membrane vulnerable and subject to damage. Depending on its exposure, risks include rain, substrate moisture or contractor traffic.
2. Possible shrink cracking in thicker sections, including corner junctions.
3. A waste of material. Coverage rates can be severely affected.
4. More difficult applications.

Rough, pitted/voided, sharp, irregular or undulating surfaces make it difficult to apply the membrane to maintain its required even thickness:

1. Rough surfaces make it difficult to apply and maintain even membrane thickness.
2. Pitted/voided surfaces are hard to clean, trap water and air which can leave the membrane unsupported in part, causes blisters/bubbles and promotes pinholes.
3. Sharp or irregular edges are hard to coat with the required thickness and are generally proud and vulnerable, leaving the membrane prone to puncture or tearing.
4. The peaks and troughs of undulating surfaces over small distances keep rollers from making proper contact with the lower part of the substrate to allow even distribution of the membrane.

The above and other like substrate surface conditions need to be rectified prior to the membrane application to provide the opportunity to maintain the designed thickness and facilitate ease of installation.

Given these membranes are designed for use under tiling; the surface level, its regularity, flatness, pitch or plane is also relevant for the intended finish and eventual function of the tiling system. For instance a 20 mm x 20 mm glass mosaics may require a higher tolerance in surface planarity than the membrane so in this case walls should be prepared for the mosaic tile. In the case of the same glass mosaics to a shower floor, falls are required to be constructed to drain water alongside a surface planarity to suit the tile. Therefore, in this case the mortar bed fall and surface tolerance should be built for the tile.

When preparing the substrate for surface planarity, flatness and dimensional tolerances, consider all the individual elements of the system, not just the membrane.

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