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Product Data Sheet PDS126: Armourcoat PPX Topcoat

1 Product description

Armourcoat PPX is a natural mineral material composed of crushed marble, cement, lime and special hydrophobic additives. It can be applied as part of the Armourcoat PPX external wall insulation system or applied over the Armourcoat PPX Bascoat that has been applied directly to brick, blockwork, concrete or cement board. Armourcoat PPX is a versatile material and can be used to create a range of surface finish effects including honed and pitted limestone like patterns.

2 Properties

- natural mineral material
- contains no VOCs
- powder product unaffected by frost
- pot life 2 - 3 hours
- wide range of finishes achievable
- can be pigmented to a wide range of light/midtone colours
- good workability in a wide range of site conditions
- good water vapour permeability
- completely non-combustible as supplied or when applied

3 Health and Safety

Armourcoat PPX Topcoat is a powdered product and a dust mask should always be worn when mixing or handling the product. The product contains hydrated lime and cement that can act as an irritant. Wear protective clothing specifically gloves and eye protection and if contact occurs wash affected areas immediately with soap and water.

4 Suitable substrates

Armourcoat PPX Topcoat should be applied as part of a system over the Armourcoat PPX Basecoat plaster.

5 Mixing instructions

Always wear a dust mask or respirator when mixing. Armourcoat PPX Topcoat is packed in 18kg sacks as a dry premix. Pigments are packed into small plastic screw top bottles and are combined with the plaster at the point of mixing.

- pour the content of the pigment pot into the 30 litre mixing drum. Fill the pigment container with water and flush out any left over pigment
- the total water requirement for an 18kg drum is 8.1 – 8.3 litres of clean water. We recommend using a specific water measure to ensure an accurate water addition
- when first mixing the material it will go quite thick and stiff and then it will gradually thin down as the additives get evenly dispersed through the mix. Mixing in excess water will affect the workability and final strength of the product
- if the finish is textured pour in the 6kg of marble granules supplied
- mix the pigment and water gently with the mixing paddle before adding the 18kg unit of plaster
- pour the plaster gently into the water/pigment mix. Mix gently at first allowing the air to bubble out of the mix. Then increase the mixing speed of the drill and mix to a thick, creamy, lump free consistency
- leave the material to stand for 5 - 10 minutes and then mix once again before applying to the wall
- Armourcoat PPX Topcoat must only be mixed with metal oxide pigments that are stable to both light and high alkalinity.

Armourcoat PPX topcoat is not designed to be used with pigment loadings in excess of 10 shots per kg of dry material

6 Application instructions

- Armourcoat PPX Basecoat should already have been applied to the substrate and finished with a completely flat, even surface
- mix the Armourcoat PPX Topcoat plaster in accordance with the mixing instructions. If the surface of the Armourcoat PPX Basecoat is very good then a single layer of the Armourcoat PPX Topcoat can be applied to provide a keycoat layer. This is left to dry before the final Topcoat layers are applied
- if the Basecoat is a little bit uneven it is advisable to add marble chips to the first layer so it can be applied a little thicker to cover any imperfections in the Basecoat. Alternatively a second layer can be applied to give a good surface for the final Topcoat layers
- scrape over the dry layer of Armourcoat PPX Topcoat to remove any small lumps or trowel lines paying special attention at the corners or the interface with other surfaces
- apply the plaster in a small area at a time working the material into the surface. Trowel in all directions
- leave the first layer until it is no longer tacky and the surface feels firm to the touch. This may take anything from 15 - 60 minutes depending upon site temperature and humidity
- take a small quantity of material onto the trowel and work it into the first layer. Repeat this process progressively over the wall occasionally dropping back onto the areas already patterned to trowel down smooth
- once the entire wall has been patterned clean off the trowel and work over the surface with the trowel at about 45 degrees to remove any excess fatty material and fill any imperfections in the surface
- trowel over the wall every 15 – 20 minutes until the surface is smooth and polished
- if the surface is drying too quickly a wet sponge float can be rubbed onto the surface to bring up some fine fat in the material. The surface can then be trowelled to a smooth finish. Water added to the surface will lead to greater colour variations and the entire surface must be treated in the same way otherwise an inconsistent finish may occur
- in hot climatic conditions it is advisable to mist the surface of the finished plaster with water 2 - 3 times the day after application to improve the cement hydration process
- leave the surface to dry and cure for 2 - 3 days before the application of the Armourcoat Sealer 56 or Armourcoat Armoursil Impregnator and Armourcoat Aquawax

7 Sealer

To achieve good longevity in an exterior environment the Armourcoat PPX system must be correctly treated with either Armourcoat Sealer 56 or Armourcoat Armoursil Impregnator and Armourcoat Aquawax. The Armourcoat PPX system has been fully tested to ETAG 004 using both these sealer systems.

- Armourcoat Sealer 56 is a stain resistant fluoroacrylic wax treatment. It is quick and easy to apply using a microfibre mop. For best results apply the first coat diluted 50:50 with water and when dry apply a second layer diluted with no more than 10% water
- Armourcoat Armoursil Impregnator and Armourcoat Aquawax. Armoursil Impregnator is a solvent free siloxane based water repellent impregnator for lime and cement based coatings. It is absorbed into the surface of the material and this greatly increases the water repellancy of the surface. Once this is dry the surface is treated with Aquawax which improves the cleanability of the surface by adding a fine sacrificial layer of wax particles

8 Maintenance

Armourcoat PPX should be periodically checked for any signs of water ingress caused by scratches or scuffs to the surface sealer or at joints or junctions with other materials. If the material starts to darken in areas when it rains the sealer should be reapplied in these localised areas.

Airborne dirt and grime can be washed off with soft brush or mop using a mild detergent solution. The surface can then be rinsed using a power washer but this should not be used closer than 100 - 150mm from the surface.

9 Coverage rates

Armourcoat PPX Topcoat is supplied in 18kg bags.

Coverage rates:

- base layer over Armourcoat PPX Basecoat: 0.8 kg/m²
- final topcoat: 1.5 – 1.6 kg/m² applied in 2 coats

One 18kg unit will cover approximately 22 - 24m² per coat or 7 - 8m² for the system of one base layer and two finishing coats when applied as the standard finish.

10 Storage

Store in good dry conditions between 5 - 25°C.

The shelf life of Armourcoat PPX Topcoat in unopened original packaging under correct storage conditions is 12 months from date of manufacture.

Protect from frost and direct sunlight on site.

In humid environments it is advisable to place the paper sacks inside a sealed plastic bag or wrap them with stretch wrap film.

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