

COVE BASE

CastorCrete® CM Urethane Mortar



APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: COVE BASE (CASTORCRETE® CM)

GENERAL

For seamless flooring applications where maximum sanitation is required, or where floors will be cleaned with large amounts of water, installation of an integral cove base is essential. The cove base ties the floor to the wall without a seam and facilitates cleaning. The base can be installed to any height. In areas where the walls receive abuse, such as lavatories or elevator cabs, the cove base is carried to wainscot height. The most common height of the cove base is 4-6 inches. The cove is the most visible part of the installation and the ability to install a “clean” base with attention to detail often separates one installation company from another.

SURFACE PREPARATION

The cove base is always installed after surface preparation of the horizontal floor area and prior to installation of the horizontal flooring system. The vertical surface must be clean. If installing cove over FRP panel, stainless steel or a previously coated surface, it is very important to abrade the surface well prior to installation. Use sandpaper or a grinding wheel to accomplish this.

In some renovation installations, particularly in commercial kitchens, portions of the wall may have deteriorated and become unsound. If these areas are minor, they should be repaired using fiberglass tape and Epoxy 300 Flex Paste. In some cases, portions of the wall may need to be replaced to ensure a sound substrate for the cove base.

INSTALLATION OF THE OPTIONAL TERMINATING STRIP

If the installation will have a Terminating Strip, it should be an “L” configuration, be plastic or zinc and generally leave a cove that is 1/8 inch to 3/16 inch in thickness. A chalk line should be snapped at the predetermined height of the base and the cap strip attached either with construction adhesive or sheet metal screws. If using screws, be sure to use flat screws that do not protrude beyond the thickness of the cap strip.

MIXING AND APPLICATION OF THE CASTORCRETE®

Pour entire contents of parts A, B and C into mixing container and mix for 30 seconds. Then slowly add part D (aggregate) over a period of about 15 seconds. Once all of the components are incorporated, mix for an additional 30 seconds. Mixing should be done with a Kohl type mixer or any other mixer designed to mix heavy mortars. Mixed material should be placed immediately. It is recommended that multiple mixing containers be used to ensure an adequate supply of fresh material.

Just prior to application of the cove blend, prime the surface with Epoxy 100 as a primer at the rate of 200-250 sq. ft. per gallon. CastorCrete® CM must be applied while the primer is still tacky. If the primer dries before the mortar is placed, it must be re-applied.

The mixed CastorCrete® CM should be troweled in place using a narrow flat trowel or broad knife. Leave enough material at the juncture of the floor and wall to form the radius and pull the remaining material up to the metal cap strip. This initial placement of the material is very important. If too much material is left, the excess must be pushed away during finishing. If too little is initially deposited, hollows or cavities will be left that will require the application of more material during finishing.

MIXING & APPLICATION (cont.)

After the material has been placed, it should be finished with a 6 inch inside step cement tool. If a radius is desired, a 3/4—1 inch radius coving trowels can be used to finish the mortar. Smooth the material by angling the trowel slightly and using pressure when pulling the trowel up. Use the lip of the cap strip as a thickness guide. The right-handed mechanic should move from right to left as he is facing the wall. Trowel lubrication is important in attaining a smooth, “closed” surface. Isopropyl alcohol makes a good low toxicity lubricant. The trowel may either be sprayed or dipped into the lubricant. A paint tray with a saturated piece of carpet works well. As soon as the troweling is complete, lightly brush or roll the CastorCrete® CM to bring the resin to the top and remove any minor imperfections. It is important to feather the cove material into the horizontal floor substrate. This avoids a ridge that would need to be sanded before tying the floor into the cove.

Finishing the cove is a skill learned by close attention to cause and effect. The objective is a smooth, uniform surface free from unsightly, soil collecting irregularities. This is accomplished by understanding what type of finishing technique produces the desired result and looking back over your work to evaluate the result. Material that accumulates on the top of the cap strip should be scraped away as you proceed.

Special attention must be paid to the inside and outside corners. A smaller radius tool or spoon is helpful on the inside corners. Outside corners must be individually formed and carefully shaped.

APPLICATION OF SEAL COATS (CASTORCRETE® RT-B AND CASTORCRETE® SL-B)

After the placement of the flooring system and before the final grout coat is applied to the floor, the cove must be sealed, if working with pigmented materials, add fumed silica as a thickening agent to the sealing resin. This will allow the application of a thicker coat without sagging. Do not use fumed silica if working with clear resin as this may cause cloudiness in the material. Since the purpose of the cove is to ensure sanitation and cleanability, it is important to leave a smooth surface, free from dirt-collecting texture.

Two seal coats are recommended. Allow the first coat to tack up slightly before applying the second coat. Applying thin and even coats avoids puddling of the material at the bottom of the base.

The crevice between the cap strip and wall must be sealed with a urethane caulking material after completion of the cove.



CASSTORCRETE™

Sustainable Urethane Modified Concrete

CastorCrete Typical Bottle Cove To Wall

