

Substrate Porosity Testing

Concrete substrates may be tested for porosity by placing approximately a quarter-size bead of water on the surface to observe absorption. If the water is not absorbed within 5 minutes, the floor should be considered non-porous. Non-porous concrete surfaces are generally rendered porous by sanding or bead-blasting.

POROSITY of the substrate affects adhesive open time and eventual drying time. Adhesives generally dry quicker over porous substrates, whereas adhesives applied over non-porous substrates can take much longer to dry.

Before applying adhesives, the substrate must be completely free of dust and dirt, paint, oil, curing or release agents (concrete surfaces can be modified by either topically applied compounds or by admixed agents in the concrete before it is poured), sealers or existing adhesives, or anything that would interfere with the adhesive making a good bond directly to the concrete. Excessively hard or smooth concrete surfaces may need to be abraded to achieve porosity.

Adhesives and subsequent flooring should not be installed over any substrate where chemical or solvent cleaners or adhesive removers have been used.

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