



## Choosing the Correct Underlayment is Secret to Success of Floor Repair

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In many instances, contractors are faced with a project which requires major patching and repairing followed by some sort of resinous overlay. The right decision and choice of repair material can be critical to the success of the project. Choosing the lowest cost underlayment material is seldom the best choice. Factors entering into the selection process other than economics are speed, performance, and compatibility.

"Self-levelling" floor underlayments are becoming more and more widely used for levelling concrete floors. Placing a resinous overlay over these materials without knowing exactly the type and characteristics of the underlayment material can be very dangerous if not disastrous. The compressive strength development of the underlayment, for example, does very little in helping one determine its suitability. The best rule of thumb is, "don't use a self-levelling underlayment under a resinous overlay." If an underlayment is necessary, use only one containing portland cement. Test the product with the overlay material prior to the actual installation, being sure to use the same time frame as would be used on the job.

When patching and repairing as well as levelling or sloping a floor surface, it is usually best to use the same material for the repair as that you will be using for the overlay; epoxy with epoxy, polyester with polyester, etc. You seldom go wrong if you use the same type of material. The compatibility will be no problem and the time frame and speed of installation is almost always faster by following this procedure.

There are times when plain economics make it very difficult to use similar products. When the volume of repair material is large in comparison to the total job and time is not a critical factor, a lower cost acrylic modified concrete can be used. If chosen for use, however, make sure the resin overlay is compatible with the acrylic/cement.

Other useful hints to follow when using acrylic modified concrete under epoxy overlays are:

Under these conditions, an epoxy or other compatible resin system can be successfully placed over an acrylic modified cement system.