

# PRODUCT DATA SHEET

## Sika® Level

DURABLE, CEMENTITIOUS, SELF-LEVELING UNDERLAYMENT

### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Sika® Level Self Leveling Underlayment is a one-component, durable and versatile cementitious underlayment for interior concrete, and cementitious substrates. It can be applied manually or by pump to produce a self-smoothing, rapid-setting, flat and economical substrate prior to the application of a final floor finish. Typical application thickness is 1/8 to 2 inches\* (3 to 50 mm).

\* in localized areas

### USES

Interior floor leveling and smoothing applications where floor coverings are to follow, such as:

**Institutional** - schools, colleges, hospitals, clinics, libraries, galleries, museums

**Commercial** - offices, corridors, hallways, canteens, cafeterias, stores, hotels, restaurants

**Residential** - domestic properties, condominiums and high rise construction

### CHARACTERISTICS / ADVANTAGES

- Easy and quick to install
- Zero VOC content and low odor
- Self-leveling
- Manual or pumpable application
- Levels new and renovates old floors
- Suitable for overcoating with non-moisture sensitive tile after 2–3 hours
- Floor coverings (carpet, vinyl, PVC, rubber, wood flooring) can be installed as soon as 1–3 days
- Excellent underlay for tiles, sheet products and wood floor bonding systems
- Is polymer modified and contains a rapid hardening cement

### PRODUCT INFORMATION

<b>Chemical Base</b>	Cement-based, polymer-modified binder system and fillers
<b>Packaging</b>	50 lb. (22.7 kg) bag
<b>Appearance / Color</b>	Concrete gray
<b>Shelf Life</b>	12 months from date of production if stored properly in original, unopened and undamaged sealed packaging
<b>Storage Conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Store dry at 41 to 86 °F (5 to 30 °C).</li> <li>▪ Condition material to 65 to 75 °F (18 to 24 °C) before using.</li> <li>▪ Protect from moisture. If damp, discard material.</li> </ul>

<b>Density</b>	133 lbs/ft <sup>3</sup>	(ASTM C348) Tested at: 73 °F (23 °C) 50 % R.H.
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## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

<b>Compressive Strength</b>		<b>50 °F (10 °C)</b>	<b>73 °F (23 °C)</b>	<b>86 °F (30 °C)</b>	(ASTM C-109) Tested at: 73 °F (23 °C) 50 % R.H.
	<b>24 hours</b>	1,000 psi	1,250 psi	1,390 psi	
	<b>7 days</b>	1,625 psi	2,500 psi	2,600 psi	
	<b>28 days</b>	2,875 psi	3,750 psi	3,120 psi	

<b>Flexural Strength</b>	1,150 psi (8 MPa) (28 days)	(ASTM C348) Tested at: 73 °F (23 °C) 50 % R.H.
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<b>Tensile Adhesion Strength</b>	Pull-Out Strength 3/16" (5 mm) thickness with SikaLevel® Primer > 290 psi (2 MPa)	(ACI 503)
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<b>Thermal Resistance</b>	Suitable for use with underfloor heating systems
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## APPLICATION INFORMATION

<b>Mixing Ratio</b>	1 gallon (3.79 L) of water per 50 lb. (22.7 kg) bag
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<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Sq. Ft.</b>
	1/8" (3.2mm)	42 ft <sup>2</sup>
	1/4" (6.3mm)	21 ft <sup>2</sup>
	1/2" (12.5mm)	11 ft <sup>2</sup>
	1" (25mm)	5.3 ft <sup>2</sup>

(Coverage figures do not include allowance for surface profile and porosity or material waste)

<b>Layer Thickness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1/8" up to 2" (3 up to 50 mm)</li> <li>▪ Can be extended with pre-washed 3/8" pea-gravel up to 2.5" (64 mm)</li> </ul>
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<b>Ambient Air Temperature</b>	41–86 °F (5–30 °C)
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<b>Substrate Temperature</b>	For application, between 41–86 °F (5–30 °C)
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<b>Maturing Time</b>	Initial Set: 45–90 min.	(ASTM C-191) Tested at: 73 °F (23 °C) 50 % R.H.
	Final Set: 70–100 min.	

<b>Pot Life</b>	Approx. 25 minutes
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## Waiting / Recoat Times

Foot Traffic: 2–3 hours for foot traffic

Ready for Covering:

- Tile/Stone/non-moisture sensitive flooring: 2–3 hours
- PVC/ Carpet/Vinyl/Rubber flooring: 1 day
- Hardwood/Engineered Wood flooring: 3 days

For coatings (ex. epoxy):

- 1/8" depth: 3 to 4 days
- 1/2" depth: 7 to 8 days
- Over 1/2" depth: 14 to 15 days

Please consult coating manufacturers for recommendations. It is always important to check the moisture content of the floor/slab before applying a coating. Meeting the specifications of the manufacturer. This can be done with a moisture meter.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

### SURFACE PREPARATION

All substrate must be dry, stable, sound and free of all contaminants such as grease, oil, paint, wax, dust, curing and sealing compounds that will interfere with the penetration the primer and the adhesion of Sika® Level.

Careful consideration should be given to the selection of the method of mechanical surface preparation and the timing of application of primer and underlayment. Immediately following mechanical preparation on some excessively porous substrates, outgassing will increase for a short period of time (approx. 48 hours) until equilibrium in slab vapor pressure and the ambient environment is reached. Consult Sika Technical Service for recommendations.

**Concrete & Cement Substrates:** Prepare concrete, cement and dense substrates, including ceramic, quarry and vinyl tiles by mechanical means, such as shot blasting, sandblasting, water-jetting, scarifying, or other appropriate methods, to achieve an open-textured, fine-gripping surface (ICRI - CSP 3 minimum). Weak surfaces should be removed. All cracks and holes should be similarly filled to prevent seepage. Repair with Sika® Level Skim Coat prior to priming and levelling. The compressive strength of the concrete substrate should be at least 2,900 psi (20 MPa) at 28 days with a minimum tensile strength of 200 psi (1.4 MPa).

**Cutback Adhesive:** Old water-soluble adhesives should be removed completely. Old water-resistant adhesives should be mechanically removed as far as possible. The complete mechanical removal of cutback (i.e. grinding, sanding and blasting) can be hazardous as old cutback adhesive may contain asbestos. Do not sand or grind adhesive residue. Harmful dust may result. Inhalation of asbestos dust may cause asbestosis or other serious bodily harm. Please consult the adhesive manufacturer and all applicable government agencies for rules and regulations concerning the removal of flooring and adhesives

that contain asbestos.

### Priming

Prime standard absorbent substrates such as concrete and cement with SikaLevel® Primer.

This product is not a vapor barrier and will allow free passage of moisture. Follow the directions of the floor covering manufacturer regarding the maximum allowable substrate moisture content and test the substrate prior to installing Sika® Level.

### MIXING

Pour 1 gallon (4 quarts) of cool potable water (70 °F) into a suitably sized and clean mixing container, using a calibrated measuring jug, or similar, to ensure strict control of the water content (do not over-watering). If available water is not at this temperature, then consideration should be given to cooling/heating the water. Add Sika® Level to the water, while slowly stirring, adding the complete contents of the 50 lb. bags.

Mix with a high-speed drill (more than 650 rpm) and an egg beater style mixing paddle to blend water and powder for approximately 3 minutes, until a lump-free and uniform mix has been produced. Do not overmix or allow the paddle to rise above the level of material as this will introduce and entrap air into the mix, potentially shortening the working life or causing pin-holing in the underlayment. Let the mixed material stand until the majority of air bubbles have dispersed.

### APPLICATION

Pour the mix and spread using a smoothing trowel. Even surfaces are easily achieved using a pin leveler. In higher thickness using a spike roller is recommended. Avoid contact to vertical structures by putting in an edge strip such as foam tape.

If a second layer of leveling compound has to be applied, prime the first layer with Sika® Level Primer when the first layer is walkable. The maximum layer thickness must not be exceeded in case of two layer applications.

The second layer must not exceed the layer thickness of the first layer.

Protect curing Sika® Level layers from high ambient temperatures, direct sunlight and ensure an adequate air circulation.

The cured surface of Sika® Level must be protected from any type of contamination by installing a suitable coating. Always install an adequate number of properly located test areas, to include the finish flooring, to determine the suitability of the product for its intended use. As floor coverings vary, always contact and rely upon the floor covering manufacturer for specific directions such as maximum allowable moisture content, adhesive selection, and intended end use of the product. Low substrate temperatures and/or high ambient humidity require longer drying times for primers. Sika® Level is not intended to be used as a wear layer.

All cement based products have the potential for cracking. Cracking, such as hair line cracking cannot be considered as a product defect or installation failure.

**For large scale areas that require deeper applications, the following recommendations can be used to minimize material cost:**

1. The material can be extended by adding up to 30 % of 20/30 grade sand during mixing to achieve up to 2" in one lift. A reduction in flow, approximately 15 %, can be expected. The final layer should be neat to allow for a smooth finished floor. When adding aggregate, expect coverage to increase by approximately .16 cu.ft. per 25 lbs of aggregate.

2. Pre-washed 3/8" pea-gravel can be pre-placed into the area being leveled allowing for up to 2" in one lift. Applicator must be aware that the aggregate can cause voids in the underlayment if not filled correctly. When adding aggregate, expect coverage to increase by approximately .16 cu.ft. per 25 lbs of aggregate. Multiple lifts can also be applied to achieve greater depths, making sure to prime with Sika® Level Primer in between lifts. If necessary, further detailed recommendations can be obtained by calling Sika Corporation's Technical Service Department. Over large areas, application by conventional piston, rotor-stator or underlayment type pumps is more appropriate. Thoroughly spike roll in two directions (90 °) to remove installation marks and any entrapped air, but avoid overworking.

#### CLEANING OF TOOLS

Clean tools in water immediately.

#### Disposal:

Empty packaging and dispose of in accordance with federal, state and local waste disposal regulations.

## LIMITATIONS

- For interior use only. Not suitable for slopes or inclines > 0.5 %
- Do not apply Sika® Level onto based, chipboard, particle board, hardboard, metal, gypsum based floors or dimensionally unstable substrates.
- Always prime concrete and cement substrates with Sika® Level Primer.
- Protect Sika® Level from excessive heat and moving air by turning off radiant heating and forced air ventilation for 24 hours before installation and while the underlayment is curing.
- Do not exceed the recommended water dosage and use clean potable water.
- Temperature variations will affect working time, with low temperatures extending drying times.
- Protect newly applied Sika® Level from condensation and water for at least 24 hours.
- Prevent contaminants, dust and dirt from coming into contact with the underlayment for at least 4 hours and do not expose to rolling dynamic loads for 2 days (at 73 °F, 50 % R. H.).
- If subsequent layers of Sika® Level are installed on existing, cured Sika® Level, mechanical preparation and re-priming is required.
- As the thickness of the underlayment will influence the time at which it can be overcoated or overlaid with stones, tiles, or coverings, the manufacturer of such materials must be consulted for guidance regarding substrate moisture content and other characteristics.
- Sika® Level does not provide an aesthetic finish and is intended to receive a final floor covering.
- For adhesives other than SikaBond®, we recommend a test application prior to use.
- All cement based products have the potential for cracking. Cracking, such as hair line cracking cannot be considered as a product defect or installation failure.

## BASIS OF PRODUCT DATA

Results may differ based upon statistical variations depending upon mixing methods and equipment, temperature, application methods, test methods, actual site conditions and curing conditions.

## LOCAL RESTRICTIONS

See Legal Disclaimer.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY

For further information and advice regarding transportation, handling, storage and disposal of chemical products, user should refer to the actual Safety Data Sheets containing physical, environmental, toxicological and other safety related data. User must read the current actual Safety Data Sheets before using any products. In case of an emergency, call CHEMTREC at 1-800-424-9300, International 703-527-3887.

## LEGAL DISCLAIMER

**KEEP CONTAINER TIGHTLY CLOSED •KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN •NOT FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION •FOR INDUSTRIAL USE ONLY •FOR PROFESSIONAL USE ONLY**

Prior to each use of any product of Sika Corporation, its subsidiaries or affiliates ("SIKA"), the user must always read and follow the warnings and instructions on the product's most current product label, Product Data Sheet and Safety Data Sheet which are available at [usa.sika.com](http://usa.sika.com) or by calling SIKA's Technical Service Department at 800-933-7452. Nothing contained in any SIKA literature or materials relieves the user of the obligation to read and follow the warnings and instructions for each SIKA product as set forth in the current product label, Product Data Sheet and Safety Data Sheet prior to use of the SIKA product.

SIKA warrants this product for one year from date of installation to be free from manufacturing defects and to meet the technical properties on the current Product Data Sheet if used as directed within the product's shelf life. User determines suitability of product for intended use and assumes all risks. User's and/or buyer's sole remedy shall be limited to the purchase price or replacement of this product exclusive of any labor costs. **NO OTHER WARRANTIES EXPRESS OR IMPLIED SHALL APPLY INCLUDING ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. SIKA SHALL NOT BE LIABLE UNDER ANY LEGAL THEORY FOR SPECIAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. SIKA SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE USE OF THIS PRODUCT IN A MANNER TO INFRINGE ON ANY PATENT OR ANY OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS HELD BY OTHERS.** Sale of SIKA products are subject to the Terms and Conditions of Sale which are available at <https://usa.sika.com/en/group/SikaCorp/termsandconditions.html> or by calling 201-933-8300.

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