



## **CURECRETE DISTRIBUTION, INC.**

### **Technical Services**

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## **INSTALLING CARPET AND TILE ON A CONCRETE SURFACE TREATED WITH THE ASHFORD FORMULA**

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Often, we are asked if The Ashford Formula can be used on concrete under carpet or tile. We know of no incompatibilities between concrete treated with The Ashford Formula and the adhesives that are used for the installation of carpet and tile. After The Ashford Formula has been applied to the concrete, has penetrated, has reacted, and all latency has subsequently been removed, essentially there is no presence of The Ashford Formula left. Rather, the result is a densified version of the original concrete surface that is richer in silicates already present in untreated concrete. Therefore, if the mastics will stick to untreated concrete, there is no chemical reason why they will not adhere to a surface treated with The Ashford Formula.

The treated concrete will actually benefit from the densification and dust proofing process because The Ashford Formula locks up the dust that can undermine good adhesion. Under the right conditions, it can also provide an excellent barrier to the moisture that often re-emulsifies carpet and tile adhesives. (These adhesives are usually water emulsions).

Since chemical adhesion is not a problem, the only area of potential concern is mechanical adhesion. If the floor is tightly and smoothly troweled, there may not be enough profile or "bite" to ensure that the glue sticks. This condition is not a result of the use of The Ashford Formula since it does not change the floor's profile. We therefore strongly recommend that the instructions of the adhesive manufacturer be strictly followed, especially if they call for "roughing up" the floor surface before application of the glue.

Often, our customers will put down a second application of The Ashford Formula in order to see an early shine (rather than waiting for the shine to appear after several months of traffic and use). This second application, even though it is very lightly applied, can undermine good adhesion of glue used later. If it is known that tile or carpet will be put down, do not use the second application of The Ashford Formula, at least not in those areas. The normal application, concluded with a thorough flush and squeegee, is all that should be done.

We also recommend that the tile or carpet be put down within two to three months of the application of The Ashford Formula, before the floor starts to shine. This will further ensure a good mechanical bond.