

EXTENDING THE DEPTH OF SELF-LEVELING UNDERLAYMENTS

The depth range of CustomTech self-leveling underlayments can be extended by the addition of pea gravel. The extension can be up to twice the thickness limit stated on the specific self-leveling underlayments' Technical Data Sheet (posted online). However, it is more difficult to obtain a very smooth surface with the addition of pea gravel and only experienced installers should use this method to apply thicker layers of self-leveling underlayments.

Below is the maximum fill depth by self-leveling underlayments (SLU) product including the addition of pea gravel:

- **CustomTech TechLevel 150:** up to 3"
- **CustomTech TechLevel XP-1:** up to 4"
- **CustomTech TechLevel 100:** up to 3"
- **CustomTech TechLevel 125:** up to 6"

The pea gravel should be clean, dry and graded between 1/4 - 3/8". Dusty pea gravel will affect the strength and workability of the mixture. Do not use limestone gravel or potentially reactive aggregate.

ADDING PEA GRAVEL DURING MIXING THE SLU

The best method for adding pea gravel to the self-leveling underlayments is during the mixing stage of the underlayments. Once the self-leveling underlayments powder is properly mixed into the required amount of water per the manufacturer's directions, the pea gravel should be added to the mix (35 lbs. of pea gravel per 50 lbs. of self-leveling underlayments powder) and mixing continued until a uniform, lump-free mixture is obtained. This mixture should be immediately poured onto the floor and spread with a rake to the desired thickness. The use of a smoothing tool is required to obtain a smooth surface. Follow manufacturer's installation instructions for proper timing and installation of the self-leveling underlayments.

POURING THE SLU OVER THE PEA GRAVEL

Alternately, the self-leveling underlayments may be poured over pea gravel on the floor. All substrates will require proper priming with the suitable CustomTech primer for the conditions and substrate before placing the pea gravel. Pea gravel is spread uniformly over the

floor to half the desired thickness of the underlayments. The self-leveling underlayments powder is then mixed into the required amount of water, per the manufacturer's directions, and immediately poured over the pea gravel to the desired thickness. While the self-leveling underlayments is still workable, the floor should be raked until all the pea gravel is encapsulated with the wet mixture of slU and all the gravel is "wetted out". The use of a smoothing tool is required to obtain a smooth surface. Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions for proper timing and installation of self-leveling underlayments.

DRY TIME AND STRENGTH OF EXTENDED SLU

Extending CustomTech self-leveling underlayments may extend the dry time before the installation of floor coverings. When adding or pre-placing pea gravel to extend the lift height of a self-leveling underlayments, it is common practice to place a final pour or "cap" to achieve the desired flatness. Due to the bulk of material being poured it may be unrealistic to expect a perfectly flat floor in the primary lift stage. It may be necessary to check moisture vapor emission prior to installing the floor covering; check with the manufacturer of the covering(s). Extending a CustomTech self-leveling underlayments may affect physical properties, such as compressive, tensile and flexural strength. For questions about using and extending CustomTech self-leveling underlayments, contact Technical Services at 800-282-8786.

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