

DETERMINING ACCEPTABILITY OF PREVIOUSLY COATED SURFACES

OVERVIEW

Recoating existing resin floors requires verifying that the old coating is structurally sound, contamination-free, and mechanically bondable. Not all coatings can be recoated, and improper evaluation can lead to intercoat delamination, soft failures, fisheyes, and poor adhesion. This bulletin outlines methods to determine whether an existing coating can support a new system.

Evaluation Criteria

- Adhesion strength of existing coating.
- Coating type: epoxy, urethane, polyaspartic, acrylic, unknown.
- Film integrity: cracking, lifting, peeling, chalking.
- Contamination: oils, cleaners, silicone, wax, or dust.
- Thickness: insufficient thickness may not support new film.

Testing Methods

- Surface abrasion test to ensure mechanical profile.
- Tape pull test to check bond strength.

Preparation Requirements

- Fully dull the surface by mechanical abrasion.
- Remove all contaminants with a compatible degreaser.
- Sand or grind glossy surfaces to achieve CSP 1-2.
- Repair damaged areas before recoating.

When Recoating is NOT Acceptable

- Existing coating delaminates under tape test.
- Silicone contamination present (fisheyes guaranteed).
- Hydrostatic pressure or moisture failure signs are visible.
- Coating is excessively chalked or chemically degraded.

Best Practices

- Perform a small adhesion test patch.
- Confirm compatibility between old and new coatings.
- When in doubt, remove existing coating to bare concrete