



Extending DRYTEK® Self-Leveling Products with Pea Gravel

TDS 232D

DRYTEK® self-leveling underlayment pour depths can be extended with clean washed pea gravel, up to twice the maximum standard pour depth in a single pour. Extending self-leveling underlayments is challenging as it can be difficult to maintain a wet edge with deeper pours. A crew of workers will need the ability to mix, pour and work a much larger amount of materials in roughly the same amount of time as a typical pour depth in order to maintain a wet edge. For these reasons it is highly recommended that this type of work be conducted by a skilled, qualified and experienced contractor and crew.

DRYTEK® Self-Leveling Underlayment	Max. Standard Pour Depth	Max. Pour Depth When Extended With Pea Gravel
DRYTEK LEVELEX	3" (76mm)	6" (152mm)
DRYTEK LEVELEX Plus	1 ¼" (32mm)	2 ½" (64mm)
DRYTEK LEVELEX DL	1 ¼" (32mm)	2 ½" (64mm)
DRYTEK LEVELEX FR	2" (51mm)	4" (102mm)

For rough estimate of approximate material usage the following may be helpful;

- Calculate the amount of DRYTEK LEVELEX self-leveling underlayment required for a full pour depth as total lbs.
- Multiply DRYTEK LEVELEX total lbs. x 0.60. This will give approximate lbs. of DRYTEK self-leveling required.
- Multiply DRYTEK LEVELEX total lbs. x 0.40. This will give approximate lbs. of pea gravel required.

Example: 1,000 ft² (92.6 m²) project using DRYTEK LEVELEX extended with pea gravel to 6" (152mm).

- 50,000 lbs. (22,727 kg) of DRYTEK LEVELEX needed for theoretical 1,000 ft² (92.6 m²) full 6" (152mm) depth
- 50,000 lbs. (22,727 kg) x 0.60 = 30,000 lbs. (16,636.4 kg) or 600 50 lb. (22.7 kg) bags of DRYTEK LEVELEX
- 50,000 lbs. (22,727 kg) x 0.40 = 20,000 lbs. (9,091 kg) of pea gravel
- Approximately 600 50 lb. (22.7 kg) bags DRYTEK LEVELEX and 20,000 lbs. (9,091 kg) of pea gravel for 1000 ft² (92.6m²) @ 6" (152mm) deep pour

Use only dry, clean, washed pea gravel as any dust or dirt brought into the mix may lead to a weak, non-bonded underlayment. Do not use limestone or other potentially reactive aggregates.

There are three recommended methods for extending pour depths with DRYTEK self-leveling products. with all three methods prepare the substrate in accordance with TDS 230D - DRYTEK Substrate Preparation and Primer Guide.

Method 1

Once the floor is properly prepared and primed with DRYTEK LEVELEX Primer, place an even layer of clean washed 1/4" to 3/8" (6 to 10 mm) pea gravel over the primed surface at no more than half of the maximum extended pour depth of the DRYTEK self-leveling product being used (i.e. if the desire is to attain a 4" [100mm] pour depth then the pea gravel should be placed to 2" [50mm] deep). Mix DRYTEK self-leveling product according to the mixing instructions on the product data sheet. Pour the mixed self-leveling product over the pea gravel and rake aggressively to ensure full wetting of the pea gravel with the DRYTEK self-leveling product and to ensure full contact and bond with the primed substrate. While the self-leveling product/pea gravel mix is still wet and workable immediately pour additional DRYTEK self-leveling mixed with water over the raked and fully coated pea gravel up to the desired elevation without exceeding the maximum standard pour depth of the DRYTEK self-leveling product. Immediately following placement, while the

DRYTEK self-leveling is still wet and workable lightly smooth the surface and pour lines by passing a smoother tool over the surface to provide an even, smooth finish. Repeat this process maintaining a wet edge until entire area has been completed.

Method 2

Once the floor is properly prepared and primed with DRYTEK LEVELEX Primer, clean washed pea gravel can be added directly to the DRYTEK self-leveling product during mixing. Mix powder and water according to the product data sheet (2-3 minutes) then add pea gravel (approximately 35 lbs. pea gravel per bag of DRYTEK self-leveling) and mix until uniform and lump free (1-2 minutes). Pour self-leveling underlayment/pea gravel mix over properly prepared and primed surface then rake aggressively until spread evenly up to half of the total pour depth. While the self-leveling underlayment/pea gravel mix is still wet and workable immediately pour additional DRYTEK self-leveling product mixed with water over the raked and fully coated self-leveling underlayment/pea gravel mix up to the desired elevation. Do not exceed the maximum standard pour depth on top of the pea gravel mixture. Immediately following placement, while the DRYTEK self-leveling product is still wet and workable lightly smooth the surface and pour lines by passing a smoother tool over the surface to provide an even, smooth finish. Repeat this process maintaining a wet edge until entire area has been completed.

Method 3

Once the floor is properly prepared and primed with DRYTEK LEVELEX Primer, use a two pour or “pre-fill and cap” application by choosing either method 1 or 2 as described above to “pre-fill”. However only pour approximately 1/4” of additional DRYTEK self-leveling product over the wet/still workable self-leveling underlayment/pea gravel mix. Continue with pre-fill until entire area is installed. Allow the pre-fill to dry until walkable then double prime the surface with DRYTEK LEVELEX Primer mixed with water at a dilution ratio of 1:5 (1 part primer to 5 parts water) for the first treatment. Allow the first primer coat to fully dry before applying a second coat of DRYTEK LEVELEX Primer at a dilution ratio of 1:3 (1 part primer to 3 parts water). Allow second coat of DRYTEK LEVELEX Primer to fully dry. Then “cap” the pre-fill by installing DRYTEK self-leveling product according to the normal mixing and installation instructions to the desired elevation without exceeding the maximum standard pour depth. Immediately following placement, while the DRYTEK self-leveling is still wet and workable lightly smooth the surface and pour lines by passing a smoother tool over the surface to provide an even, smooth finish. Repeat this process maintaining a wet edge until entire area has been completed.

Extended DRYTEK self-leveling applications will require longer drying times. Always refer to finish floor manufactures written instructions and recommendations for suitable substrates, moisture conditions and other considerations.

It is important to note that successfully extending the pour depth of DRYTEK self-leveling products depends greatly on the contractor experience, application method and the job site conditions. It is highly recommended that a mock up is installed on site to verify suitability and to ensure required performance and desired outcome is achieved.

Please note that stated DRYTEK self-leveling product compressive strengths may vary when extending with pea gravel.

Technical Data Sheets are subject to change without notice. For latest revision, check our website at www.laticrete.com
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