

EXTENDING THE DEPTH OF SELF-LEVELING UNDERLAYMENTS

The depth range of CustomTech and CUSTOM Flooring Installation Systems 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 underlayment's 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 underlayment.

Below is the maximum fill depth by self-leveling underlayment (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"
- CUSTOM Flooring Installation Systems CL-150: up to 3"
- CUSTOM Flooring Installation Systems CL-XP1: up to 4"

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 underlayment is during the mixing stage of the underlayment. Once the self-leveling underlayment 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 underlayment 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 underlayment.

POURING THE SLU OVER THE PEA GRAVEL

Alternately, the self-leveling underlayment may be poured over pea gravel on the floor. Pea gravel is spread uniformly over the floor to half the desired thickness of the underlayment. The self-leveling underlayment 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 underlayment is still workable, the floor should be raked until all the pea 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 underlayment.

DRY TIME AND STRENGTH OF EXTENDED SLU

Extending CUSTOM self-leveling underlayments may extend the dry time before the installation of floor coverings. 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 CUSTOM self-leveling underlayment may affect physical properties, such as compressive, tensile and flexural strength. For questions about using and extending CUSTOM self-leveling underlayments, contact Technical Services at 800-282-8786.

