



Cambridge Trowel-on

TECHNICAL BULLETIN



ARMATEX 100% ACRYLIC TEXTURES [\[arma.Cam\]](#)

PRODUCT TYPE

100% acrylic Trowel-on texture finish.

DESCRIPTION

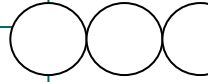
Armatex Cambridge Trowel-on is a 100% acrylic, water reducible, texture paste. The product is formulated to provide a ready to use material that can be trowel applied straight from the drum to a suitably prepared vertical wall. The final result is a unique textured finish with a similar appearance to that of a traditional sand and cement render.

The applied finish is a medium granular profile with a dry film thickness of approximately 1.1 mm. Common to all Armatex finishes, carefully graded washed and dried sands are blended with Astec second generation acrylics to form a flexible product that is extremely well bound and will not crumble even when it is feathered to a fine edge. Armatex provides a strongly adhered film with outstanding exterior durability.

Armatex has undergone rigorous field and laboratory test programs that guarantee the tradesman a product that is fast and trouble free to apply. This feature will ensure they achieve the desired uniform result.

Astec Paints are a 100% Australian owned company committed to the research and development of technologically advanced coatings that provide premium durability against our harsh Australian conditions. Our coatings are manufactured with high regard for worker safety and environmental care and will provide you with absolute confidence in long term performance.





PROPERTIES

Unique to Armatex acrylic textures are flow control and setting additives that enable a good wet edge to be maintained. These additives also provide pseudoplasticity, making the product extremely buttery and smooth to apply.

Unlike many available texture finishes, Armatex Cambridge is manufactured using the highest grade of silica, quartz and marble aggregates. The aggregates are carefully selected and analysed to assure they are without, or have only, very low traces of iron content. As a result the common threat of rust bleeding from the finish is removed assuring the wall will remain aesthetically sound for many years to come.

DESIGNED USE

Armatex Cambridge trowel on has a smooth and very even granular rendered profile. The products profile is capable of covering medium surface imperfections, therefore, any surface misalignments or defects should be well patched to a feathered edge with Armatex pre-patch Medium or coarse over any high build skim or sand cement renders that have been used to initially level the wall. Armatex Cambridge is suitable for application to smooth surfaces such as F.C. Sheeting, Plaster Board, Villa Board, Off Form Concrete and only smooth Cement Render.

COLOUR

Armatex Cambridge trowel on is manufactured as a white base and can be computer colour matched to any colour other than deep tones. However, as top-coating the texture forms part of the texture system, a topcoat can be applied in any colour including deep tones.



As the texture is to have a top-coat applied, the texture colour does not need to be exact to the final top-coat colour.

Where the texture is to be applied without a topcoat, in non critical applications, it is important to box the materials to ensure a uniform colour across the entire project. Or more suitably a one batch factory lot should be ordered as a total quantity to carry out the entire project.

TOP-COATING

Although Armatex Cambridge offers good flexibility. As with all textures, it requires high levels of aggregate fillers to achieve the texture look. The textures are flexible, however, they are inherently low in ability to resist shear or forthcoming movement in a substrate without splitting. To ensure the building is not only aesthetically sound but waterproofed, the textures are top-coated with a highly elastic membrane that will resist forthcoming movement in the substrate.

Astec EC-2000 D.G. S.M. Elastomeric Wall Coating is used as a top-coat for Armatex textures. The application of EC-2000 D.G. S.M. ensures a uniform colour across the entire project, enhances the texture and provides optimum results in exterior durability and crack bridging performance. **Please read the relevant EC-2000 D.G. S.M. Technical Bulletin.**

100% ACRYLIC TEXTURES

COVERAGE RATE

- * 1.0 m² per ltr
(applicator dependant)
- * 15.0 m² per 15 ltr tub.

CLEAN UP

All equipment can be washed up in water. Do not allow waste water to enter sewers or water courses. Any spilt texture should be allowed to dry and disposed of as land fill according to local regulations.

DRYING TIMES

Armatex Cambridge trowel on will dry to touch in approximately 2 to 3 hrs at 25°C and 50% relative humidity. The film will reach full cure in 7 days.

MIXING

Mixing can be carried out using a low speed drill mixer or a 20 ltr paint wacker. Care should be taken so as not to entrain the product with excessive amounts of air.

THINNING

All Armatex products are manufactured approximately 2% thicker than is normally required, to allow some on site control for the tradesman. In addition to accommodate any high temperature reduction in viscosity that can occur.

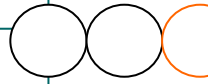
Thinning can be done with clean fresh water or Astec high temperature Thinners. The amount of thinner should not exceed 1% by weight and should be determined by the applicator on the day of use, taking all climatic and evaporation loss factors into account.

NOTE: ANY PRODUCT THINNING WILL CHANGE THE TEXTURE PROFILE AND ITS WORKABILITY ,THEREFORE, THE AMOUNT OF WATER ADDED TO THE FIRST DRUM SHOULD BE RECORDED. THE RECORDED AMOUNT SHOULD BE ADDED TO EACH FOLLOWING DRUM REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE ENTIRE PROJECT AS IT WILL ENSURE AN IDENTICAL FINISH IS ACHIEVABLE WITH EVERY DRUM. A TEST PATCH SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT WITH ANY THINNED PRODUCT PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF YOUR ENTIRE PROJECT. THE TEST PATCH WILL ENSURE THAT BOTH THE CLIENT AND APPLICATOR ALIKE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE FINAL TEXTURE APPEARANCE.

LIMITATIONS

Armatex Cambridge trowel on should be applied at temperatures between 10°C and 32°C. Avoid application in extreme heat and or windy conditions and always work with shaded areas out of direct sunlight. Always protect the applied product from freezing prior to cure.

During inclement weather and where you know the temperature will fall below 10°C at night, always terminate work early enough to allow sufficient time for the product to cure. In some areas this could be as early as 12 pm to 1pm.



When applying Armatex at temperatures around 10°C you must remember that in some cases the substrate temperature can be many degrees lower than the day. Under these circumstances it is advisable to conduct a small test patch to ensure cure will take place.

Armatex Cambridge trowel on is a water based material, therefore, should not be applied during inclement weather or when precipitation and freezing are imminent.

SURFACE PREPARATION

The surface is to be prepared to a standard not less than that specified in the, **Armatex High Build Skim, Pre-patch Coarse, Medium or Fine Technical Bulletin**.

The specified Bulletin must be read in conjunction with this document.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Armatex Cambridge trowel-on is applied with a hawk and trowel, (**See Diagram 1, Fig 1, 2 and 3**), then “scrubbed up” with a plastic or foam float to remove any steel trowel marks and achieve its final finish, (**See Diagram 4**)

NOTE: HIGH QUALITY STAINLESS STEEL TROWELS AND MIXING EQUIPMENT MUST BE USED FOR APPLICATION AND P.V.C. OR FOAM FLOATS FOR FINISHING. IT IS NOT ADVISABLE TO APPLY THE PRODUCT WITH A MILD STEEL TROWEL AS TRACES OF IRON CAN BE LEFT ON THE SURFACE WHICH CAN CAUSE UNSIGHTLY RUST STAINS TO APPEAR.

APPLICATION TECHNIQUE

A manageable amount of texture is loaded to your hawk via a scoop, (**See Diagram 1, Figure 1**). Then load your trowel by moving it across your hawk starting from the edge closest to your body, while at the same time tilting the outer edge of the hawk up and toward yourself to assist in pick-up of the texture, (**See Diagram 1, Figure 2 & 3**).

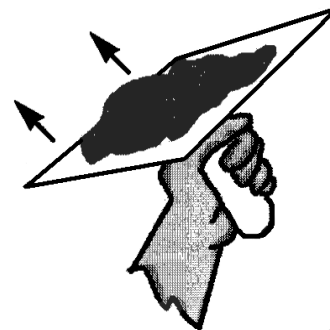


Figure 1

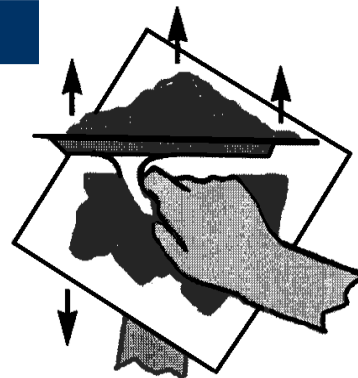


Figure 2

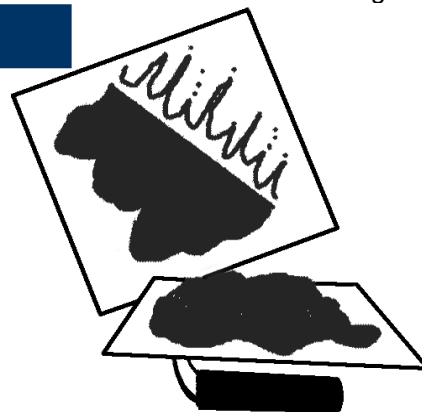


Figure 3

(diagram 1)



The texture is then transferred from the trowel to the wall in vertical strips starting at the top of the wall and across an area of approximately 1 metre wide. (See Diagram 2)

NOTE; THE AMOUNT OF AREA COVERED PRIOR TO SMOOTHING OUT THEN FLOATING WILL DEPEND ON THE WET EDGE TIME THAT WILL CHANGE WITH SUBSTRATE AND IS HIGHLY DEPENDANT ON THE WEATHER CONDITIONS. DO NOT GET TOO FAR AHEAD AS LOSING THE PRODUCTS WET EDGE WILL RESULT IN A POOR FINAL APPEARANCE.

With your trowel at a 45 degree angle to the surface and using an ark motion, use firm pressure to smooth off and remove any excess texture to the thickness of the coarsest aggregate. (See Diagram 3)

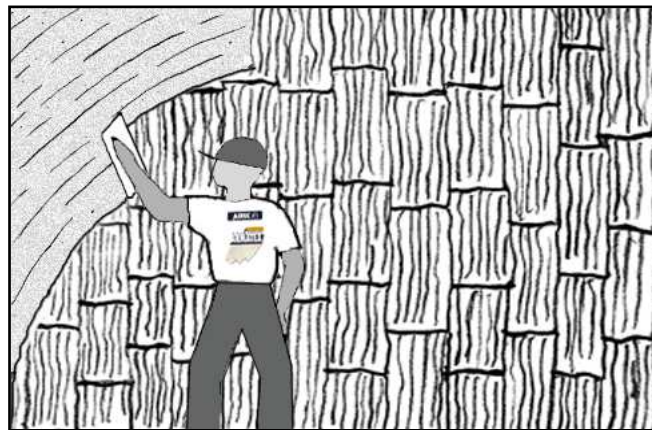
After smoothing off, allow the texture to stand for a short while. Then float the texture in a circular motion with light even pressure to raise the aggregates to a smooth even appearance, (See Diagram 4)

The most common finish floats used for finishing Cambridge Trowel On are hard P.V.C. or Polystyrene foam.

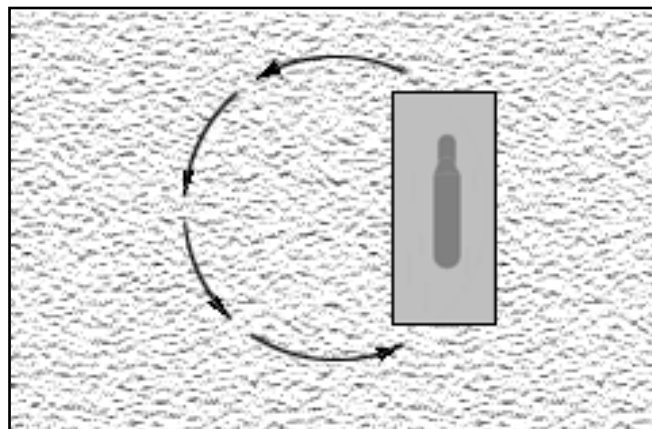
The procedure of applying the texture to the wall, loading in vertical strips, smoothing off and floating must be carried out in a uniform and well planned manner.



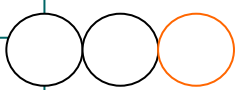
(diagram.2) transfer texture to the wall



(diagram.3) smooth off and remove excess



(diagram.4) float texture to achieve desired finish



SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Careful consideration must be given to the size of the area as the application must take place in an uninterrupted manner across the entire area.

The texture must be applied and completely finished without missing any of the area as touching up of the texture during drying will produce a poor surface appearance.

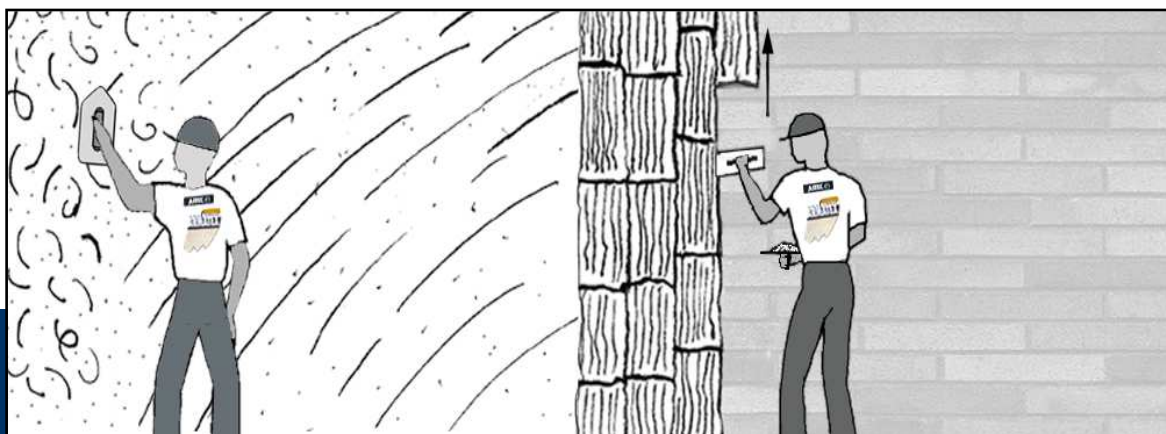
In the event that the area is too large to effect uninterrupted application, the area should be architecturally broken up into more manageable sizes.

Most importantly, the applicators must consider the weather elements to ensure that the texture is not applied in direct sunlight, on hot surfaces or when hot wind is present.



Attention to detail with on site planning and logistics, including whether, scaffolding for substrate access and the sizing of manageable areas will ensure the longest possible time is achieved to effect a uniform texture appearance across the entire project.

It is imperative that the texture be applied to the entire selected area while maintaining a wet edge. For the most effective system of maintaining a wet edge refer to Diagram 5, below.



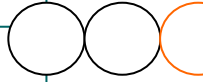
(diagram.5) maintaining a wet edge

PRODUCT DATA



ARMATEX 100% ACRYLIC TEXTURES [arma
Cambridge

Gloss Level	Matt
Recommended Thinners	Water
Touch Dry	1 hour
Dry @ 25 deg C, 50% RH	2 hours
Theoretical spread rate [@ 900 mic D.F.T.]	1.0 m ² /ltr
Abrasion resistance	Excellent
Solvent resistance [Full top coated system]	
Alcohol	No reaction
Salt water	No reaction
Distilled water	No reaction
Diluted Caustic Soda	No reaction
Detergent solution	No reaction
Dilute 5% mineral acid	No reaction
Accelerated weathering [2000 hrs 313 U.V.B.]	Excellent
Specific Gravity	1.803
Solids volume	73% V/V
P.V.C.	83% V/V
Moisture vapour transmission [Method ASTM E96-1966 Full top-coated system]	42.7g.m ² /24hrs



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