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# **ARDEX FB 9 L**

## **Pourable ShearFlex® Mortar**

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**Portland cement-based thin set mortar  
in accordance with ANSI A118.4**

**Highly flexible**

**Water and frost resistant**

**Use for setting ceramic, porcelain, and quarry tile,  
glass and porcelain mosaics, and moisture-insensitive  
natural stone tiles**

**Pourable consistency makes it specially suited to  
set large format tiles**

**Suitable for high traffic areas**

**Easy to mix and apply**

**High yield**

**Long pot life**

**Use for interior and exterior floors**

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**ARDEX ENGINEERED CEMENTS**  
400 Ardex Park Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001 USA  
Tel: 724-203-5000  
Toll Free: 888-512-7339  
Fax: 724-203-5001  
[www.ardex.com](http://www.ardex.com)

# ARDEX FB 9 L

## Pourable ShearFlex® Mortar

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### Usage

For the setting of: porcelain, ceramic and quarry tile; glass and porcelain mosaics; concrete and natural stone tiles and slabs on interior and exterior installations (with the exception of moisture-sensitive stone); setting tile on cementitious floors with in-floor heating systems, tiling in swimming pools, and high traffic areas.

### Pre-Leveling

Use to pre-smooth existing concrete up to 1/2" in a neat application. For deeper areas, blend part of mixed ARDEX FB 9 L with 1/3 part of 1/8"-1/4" pea gravel. Installation of the tile can proceed in 6 hours.

### Description

Portland cement-based modified mortar with powdered polymers for high bond strength and flexibility. When mixed with water, the result is a pourable, creamy smooth thin-set mortar that hardens by hydration and drying, is highly flexible, and water and weather resistant. ARDEX FB 9 L bonds to all suitable concrete, masonry, and cementitious substrates, and Type 1 exterior grade plywood on interior substrates only.

### Substrate Preparation

ARDEX FB 9 L adheres to both dry and damp substrates that are structurally sound, solid and free from any contaminant that can act as a bond breaker. (Refer to ANSI A108 AN-2 "General Requirements for Subsurfaces" and the Tile Council of America's "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation" for detailed information on surface preparation and guidelines for substrate construction.) Floor surfaces must have minimal variation in the plane or slope.

ARDEX FB 9 L will bridge over dormant cracks up to 1/8" wide. Expansion joints must be provided over existing moving joints and cracks, and where substrate materials change composition or direction per ANSI A108 AN-3.7.

Highly absorbent concrete substrates must be primed with ARDEX P 51™ PRIMER diluted 1:3 with water (interior applications in dry areas only).

Existing tiles, metal, glass, and other non-porous surfaces must be primed with ARDEX P 82™ ULTRA PRIME (interior applications in dry areas only). For exterior applications or in wet areas, non-porous substrates must be coated with specific Ardex waterproof coatings.

### Mixing And Application

The water to powder ratio for ARDEX FB 9 L can be adjusted based upon the type of tile being installed and jobsite conditions. For each 40 lb. bag of ARDEX FB 9 L, use between 5 and 5 3/4 quarts of water. Put clean water in the mixing container first, and then add the ARDEX FB 9 L. For best results, mix with an ARDEX T-2 Ring Mixing Paddle and 1/2" heavy-duty drill. To mix smaller quantities by hand, use 2 1/2 to 3 parts by volume of powder to one part of water. Use a margin trowel and mix vigorously for 2-3 minutes. Just prior to application on the substrate, the mixture should be stirred again to ensure a creamy, smooth, lump-free consistency. The pot life of ARDEX FB 9 L is approximately 3 hours at 70°F (21°C). If surface skinning occurs within this time, remix before using.

Installation should proceed in accordance with ANSI A108.5.

After mixing, apply the mortar to the substrate with the flat side of a trowel to obtain a solid mechanical bond. Apply to an area no greater than that which can be covered with tile while the mortar remains plastic (approx. 30 minutes open time, depending on substrate and job site conditions). Comb the mortar with a notched trowel of sufficient depth to ensure that the tiles are covered uniformly over their entire surface. The type and size of the tiles will dictate the size of the notched trowel to be used. The position of the tiles may be corrected for approximately 30 minutes after their installation.

Rough or uneven substrates may first be treated with a pre-smoothing layer of ARDEX FB 9 L up to 1/4" thick. Installation of tiles may begin after 6 hours.

### Grouting

Floor tiles can be grouted after 6 hours. Ardex recommends the use of ARDEX FLEX SANDED™ or ARDEX UNSANDED™ grouts in accordance with ANSI A108.10.

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## Notes

The pot life of ARDEX FB 9 L is 3 hours at 70°F (21°C). If surface skinning occurs within this time, remix the mortar before using. Tile must not be applied to skinned-over mortar.

When setting paper-faced glass mosaic or porcelain mosaic tiles, apply sufficient mortar such that when the mosaic is pressed into place, the mortar rises up through the joints. Any subsequent grouting that is necessary must also be done with ARDEX FB 9 L.

In cases requiring waterproofing, refer to the Ardex Technical Brochures for Ardex waterproofing compounds.

For setting and grouting tiles in high stress areas, hot tubs, and water-holding tanks, use ARDEX WA™ EPOXY ADHESIVE AND GROUT.

As always, Ardex recommends the installation of test areas to confirm the suitability of the product for the intended use.

ARDEX FB 9 L must be worked at temperatures over 50°F (10°C). Observe the basic rules of tile work.

For setting moisture-sensitive stones on interior applications, use ARDEX S 16 FAST SETTING THIN SET MORTAR FOR MARBLE TILE or ARDEX S 20 FAST SETTING MEDIUM AND THICK BED MORTAR FOR MOISTURE-SENSITIVE STONE.

## Precautions

ARDEX FB 9 L contains Portland cement. Avoid eye and skin contact. Mix in a well ventilated area and avoid breathing powder or dust. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. Carefully read and follow all cautions and warnings on product label. For complete safety information, please refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet or visit our website at [www.ardex.com](http://www.ardex.com).

Physiologically and ecologically friendly when set. Never mix with cement or additives other than Ardex approved products. Observe the basic rules of concrete work. Do not install below 50°F (10°C) surface temperature.

## Technical Data According To Ardex Quality Standards

(All data based on a mixing ratio of 2½ parts powder to 1 part by volume of water at 70°F)

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**Mixing Ratio:** 5-5¾ qts. of water to one 40 lb. bag; for smaller batches, use 2½-3 parts powder to 1 part water.

### Material Requirements on Smooth Substrate (approx.):

90 sq. ft. per bag using a ¼" x ¼" x ¼" trowel;  
65 sq. ft. per bag using a ¼" x ⅜" x ¼" trowel

**Open Time (70°F):** Approx. 30 minutes

**Working Time:** 30 minutes

**Pot Life:** 3 hours

**Time to Grout:** Floors 6 hours

**Adhesion Strength of Quarry Tiles:** 300 psi after 28 days

**Packaging:** 40 lb. bag net weight

**Storage:** Store in a cool dry area. Do not expose bags to sun.

**Shelf Life:** One year

**Warranty:** Ardex Engineered Cements Standard Limited Warranty applies.

## Limited Warranty

Ardex, L.P. warrants that if this product proves to have manufacturing defects and ARDEX is notified of such within six months from the date ARDEX shipped the product, ARDEX will replace the defective product f.o.b. factory. Such product replacement shall constitute the sole and exclusive remedy for any claim under this warranty. ARDEX does not authorize anyone, including ARDEX Representatives, to make any statements which supersede, modify or supplement the information provided on its printed literature or package labels without written confirmation from the Ardex Technical Service Department. Any installations proceeding without this confirmation, or misinstallations of the product, will void this warranty. THIS WARRANTY IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED, IMPLIED, OR STATUTORY, AND IS STRICTLY LIMITED TO ITS TERMS. ARDEX MAKES NO WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR SUITABILITY OF ITS PRODUCTS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE. All product demonstrations are placed for illustrative purposes only and do not constitute a warranty of any kind. ARDEX SELLS ITS PRODUCTS UPON THE CONDITION THAT CUSTOMERS SHALL CONDUCT THEIR OWN TESTS TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY OF THE PRODUCTS FOR THE CUSTOMERS' INTENDED PURPOSES. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ARDEX BE LIABLE FOR ECONOMIC, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR LOSSES OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER ARISING OUT OF OR OCCASIONED BY THE SELECTION, USE, INSTALLATION, OR REPLACEMENT OF THESE PRODUCTS.

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**ARDEX ENGINEERED CEMENTS**  
400 Ardex Park Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001 USA  
Tel: 724-203-5000  
Toll Free: 888-512-7339  
Fax: 724-203-5001  
[www.ardex.com](http://www.ardex.com)