

CONTINUO

CONCRETE-EFFECT DECORATIVE COATING PER FLOORS AND WALLS



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1 **Description**

CONTINUO is a combined multi-layer system made up of different mineral and organic products for horizontal and vertical surfaces in modern architectural contexts.

CONTINUO is a system that lets you create decorative surfaces which are highly suited to contemporary architecture, to perceive, define or anticipate the tastes and trends in interior design for home owners to comm and also where floor heating is used.

The **CONTINUO** system is classified A+ according to the French ministerial decree for air quality in interior environments



The **CONTINUO** system is made up of 4 main elements.

CONTINUO BASE: Pre-mixed single-component powder, cement-based product.

CONTINUO DECO: Decorative organic-mineral two-component spreadable putty.

CONTINUO LINK: Two-component, transparent, water-soluble epoxy primer.

CONTINUO TOP: Transparent, two-component, acrylic-urethane, aliphatic, non-yellowing varnish.

To apply **CONTINUO BASE**, use a reinforcing fiber-glass mesh with anti-alkali treatment having a nominal weight of >70-90 < 5% g/m² with mesh space between 3.5 mm and 4.5 mm (see point 4 APPLICATION).

CONTINUO allows to 2 types of surface to be created:

- **Natural surface**, which is smooth or with a light characterization of the structure, in 3 gloss level, depending on the **CONTINUO TOP** final coat used.
- **Structured surface**, which has the appearance of the stone with ripples, in 3 gloss levels, depending on the **CONTINUO TOP** final coat used.

2 uses

CONTINUO allows new floors to be created by intervening on the existing sub-floor (screed, concrete, ceramic, terracotta, stoneware, natural stone or reconstructed bases). Ideal in the renovation and enhancement of areas without having to face complex demolition works, weighing down the floors, by keeping in place whatever proves difficult to remove. Being less than 3 mm thick, and normally less than 3 kg/m² means this product will let you create matchings between various types of floors and surfaces. The interior areas simply and quickly become up to date again. Both horizontal and vertical surfaces can be easily customized without aesthetic interruptions - even in kitchens and bathrooms, bringing you cost savings, without the mess and disturbance of demolition and disposal.

CONTINUO can be applied on the following background surfaces:

- CLS (concrete)
- Screeds (in sand and cement, or sand and specific binder for screeds, pre-packaged ready screeds on radiant floors, self-leveling screeds in sand and cement)
- Surfaces tiled with ceramic, porcelain, mosaic
- Surfaces with existing epoxy or polyurethane coatings
- Surfaces in natural and reconstructed stone
- Various mineral conglomerates provided they be absorbent
- New and old mortars with aqueous binders
- Organic or mineral decorative finishes
- Surfaces in plaster and plasterboard

CONTINUO cannot be applied onto horizontal and vertical surfaces that do not guarantee adhesion and dimensional stability.

The following are therefore not suitable:

- Parquet
- Linoleum
- Pre-finished wood
- Painted and non-painted metal surfaces
- Glass and glass-block surfaces
- Damp surfaces or where rising damp is present
- Do not apply to bathroom items in ceramic, resin and similar.

CONTINUO cannot be applied in loading-unloading areas where the use of trolleys or similar is required or expected.

3 System components

The **CONTINUO** system consists of 4 products which, despite being different in nature and function, are fundamental for obtaining a robust and stylish system of products. The materials are indeed formulated to work in close conjunction together so that the final result has high durability over time.

- **CONTINUO BASE:** Pre-mixed single-component powder, cement-based product for the levelling of interior environments. Simply mixing CONTINUO BASE with water creates a cement mortar of medium hardening time for maximum thicknesses of 1.5 mm per layer.

CONTINUO BASE is a product that gives off an extremely low level of volatile organic substances.

- **CONTINUO DECO:** Decorative organic-mineral two-component spreadable putty, which can be colored with the MARCROMIE tinting system

Creates surfaces with a good surface hardness which make it suitable not only for the decorating vertical surfaces but also for horizontal surfaces in private and commercial residential areas of medium-intensity pedestrian traffic.

The simple on-site mixing of CONTINUO DECO COMP. A (decorative organic putty) with CONTINUO DECO COMP. B (premixed with suitably-modified mineral components) allows you to add effects and color to surfaces.

CONTINUO DECO is a decorative product that gives off an extremely low level of volatile organic substances.

- **CONTINUO LINK:** Two-component, transparent, water-soluble epoxy primer with high penetrating and consolidating power, designed to saturate and consolidate surfaces decorated with CONTINUO DECO, enhancing its color.

The special thermo-setting formulation, at very low viscosity, creates a surface highly suitable so that the CONTINUO TOP paint can "film" properly, and develop maximum performance.

CONTINUO LINK is formulated with low-yellowing epoxy resins. When used on particularly pale surfaces, slight lightening may occur over time.

CONTINUO LINK is suitable only for internal surfaces, and gives off extremely low volatile organic substances.

CONTINUO LINK can also be used to consolidate and protect horizontal and vertical concrete surfaces, enhancing dust-inhibition and reducing absorption of water and oils.

(all the information for this type of use are contained in the CONTINUO LINK data sheet, available on request)

- **CONTINUO TOP:** Transparent, two-component, acrylic-urethane, aliphatic, non-yellowing finish. After suitable curing, these products provide high mechanical resistance against abrasion and scratching, and a good chemical resistance. The CONTINUO TOP COMP. A finish is available in the versions Satin, Glossy and Matt.

Before use, the top coat CONTINUO TOP COMP. A must be mixed with CONTINUO TOP COMP. B, a new-generation aliphatic poly-isocyanate hardener, with monomer content HDI <0.1% by weight.

The mixing of the 2 components can be done manually on-site before use, to give ease and speed in preparing the mix.

After opening CONTINUO TOP comp. B, to improve conservation, clean the edges and close the lid well to protect the product from humidity and foreign matter.

Due to their technical characteristics matched with high transparency and their natural effect, CONTINUO TOP paints can also be used for maintaining already-installed parquet wood.

(all the information for this type of use are contained in the CONTINUO TOP data sheet, available on request)

4 Application

The application of the **CONTINUO** system will be easy and the final performances of the decorated surfaces will be uniform and durable, simply by following the steps of the operating phases in this manual. First, check the suitability and condition of the equipment and personal-safety equipment (glasses, gloves, knee guards, etc.).

- **CONTINUO BASE.** To apply, use a stainless-steel trowel.

Mix ratio: 25 kg of **CONTINUO BASE** + 5-6 l of clean water

Mix preparation: pour the mix. water into a clean container. Slowly add **CONTINUO BASE** to the water, mixing with a spiral mixer.

Mixing time: normally, three minutes are enough to complete mixing. The mix must give a uniform, thixotropic mortar, with no lumps.

The mixing can be performed manually only for a small quantity of product, maximum 5 kg.

Mix pot life: Use the mix within approximately 60 minutes. After this time, although still usable, the mix begins to lose workability and flow. **Do not add more water to extend pot life.**

- **CONTINUO DECO.** To apply, use a stainless-steel trowel.

Mix ratio by weight: 15 Kg of **CONTINUO DECO COMP. A** + 5 Kg of **CONTINUO DECO COMP. B.**

Mix preparation: only immediately before applying the product, add one 5 kg tub of **CONTINUO DECO COMP. B.** to each 15-kg pack of **CONTINUO DECO COMP. A.** The adding of the powder component must be gradual and done with drill speed mixer. The mixing of the two components cannot be performed manually.

Mixing time: approximately three minutes. Mixing must produce a mortar which is uniform, thixotropic and without lumps.

Mix pot life: approx. 120 minutes

Thinning: it is possible to dilute mix (15 kg of component A + 5 kg of component B) adding up to 5% of water (1 liter).

Tinting: We recommend making up an evenly colored **CONTINUO DECO. A** before applying. Perform tinting of **CONTINUO DECO.A** with the MARCROMIE colour-blending system. It is possible to mix with gyroscopic mixer or spiral-equipped drill.

We recommend completing every job with materials of the same production batch. In the case of using different batches of manufacture, to avoid slight color differences, we recommend mixing the various lots together. For jobs in

which, due to unavoidable reasons, a new batch has to be used, do not apply the batches adjacent to each other. For joining, use any interruptions of surface continuity such as r



Photo 1

Before proceeding applying CONTINUO LINK and CONTINUO TOP, clean the surfaces thoroughly, removing any residual dust.

If you want natural-looking and smooth finishes, you can sand the surfaces with sanding discs, grit 120-180; see Photo 1

- **CONTINUO LINK.** For application, use a BRUSH or short-wool, or sponge ROLLER

Mix ratio by weight: 0.500 l of component A + 0.250 l of component B (mix by weight, 2 parts of component A + 1 part of component B)

Mix preparation: blend **CONTINUO LINK TOP. A** from any sedimentations. Pour **CONTINUO LINK COMP. B** into **CONTINUO LINK TOP. A** and mix manually for approximately 45-60 seconds.

Thinning: dilute the resulting mix (0.500 l of component A + 0.250 l of component B) adding 3 l of water.

A tub of suitably-diluted A+B will cover approximately 60-70 m², corresponding to 16-18 sq.m/l (diluted product) per coat.

Mix life time: approximately 60 minutes. **Do not use the mix after this time limit. After this time, although still usable, the mix begins to lose workability and flow.**

Use a flat brush to trim the corners/edges of the room perimeter. Then apply CONTINUO LINK with a short-wool roller, being careful to cover all the surface.

Take special care over the corners. It is necessary to wait for the curing/drying times before applying the top coat **CONTINUO TOP.**



Photo 2

When applying CONTINUO LINK, if you encounter profiles, perimeter joints, etc., to avoid unsightly, too-defined lines from forming due to the passage of the wool roller **Photo 2**, we recommend laying the product in an uneven way. In these cases, using a sponge trowel is particularly suited reducing this inconvenience.

- **CONTINUO TOP.** To apply, use a BRUSH or short-wool ROLLER or sponge ROLLER.

CONTINUO TOP (Matt, Satin, Glossy)

Mix ratio by weight: 2.500 l of component A + 0.750 l of component B (10 parts of component A + 3 parts of component B).

Mix preparation: blend **CONTINUO TOP COMP. A** by mixing evenly and manually to remove any sedimentations. Pour **CONTINUO TOP COMP. B** into **CONTINUO TOP COMP. A**, mixing manually for approximately 45-60 seconds. You can mix with drill equipped with mixer blade at slow mixing speed, for up to 1 minute.

Thinning: dilute the mix obtained (2.500 l of component A + 0.750 l of component B) adding 0.300-0.400 l of water.

-A tub of suitably-diluted A+B will cover, in the two layers, approximately 20-22 m²; corresponding to 7-8 m² per liter of product in the two layers.

Mix life time: approximately 60 minutes. **Do not use the mix after this time limit. Do not try to reduce an increased viscosity by diluting with water.**

The final protection can be altered in terms of functionality and aesthetics by using one of the finishes' 3 degrees of gloss. Use of **CONTINUO TOP** ensures reaching maximum technical performance without penalizing the elegant aesthetics of the system.

High chemical and mechanical resistance make it ideal for both domestic and commercial uses.

THE CONTINUO SYSTEM - VERTICAL SURFACES

Step	Product	Layer	When?	Equipment
1	CONTINUO DECO	first of three	work begins	stainless steel trowel
2	CONTINUO DECO	second of three	after 3 hours from step 1	stainless steel trowel
3	CONTINUO DECO	third of three	after at least 3 hours from step 2	stainless steel trowel
4	CONTINUO LINK	one only	after at least 12 hours from step 3	roller
5	CONTINUO TOP	first of two	after at least 3 hrs. from step 4	roller
6	CONTINUO TOP	second of two	after at least 3 hrs. from step 5	roller
light traffic			after at least 12 hrs. from step 6	
fully usable			after 5 days from step 6	

In cases where there are surfaces coated with non-absorbent ceramic materials, it is necessary to apply PRO LINK, a bonding primer for ceramic coatings; cod. 4750006.

PRO LINK must be covered with one layer of CONTINUO BASE after 3 hrs. with embedded anti-alkali* mesh.

Continue with the standard CONTINUO cycle.

Glass-fiber anti-alkali mesh >70 < 90 gr/m² with mesh space including between the 3.5 mm and the 4.5 mm.

PRO LINK

Product preparation: manually blend the product before use.

- Equipment: brush, roller.
- Mix the product before applying it.
- Thinning: ready for use or max. 10% with water.
- No. of coats/layers: 1.
- All tools should be cleaned with water immediately after use.
- Indicative spreading capacity/rate: 15-20 m²/l. Given the particular type of already-covered surface area, we recommend carrying out a test on the specific background surface, to establish consumption.

THE CONTINUO SYSTEM - HORIZONTAL SURFACES

Step	Product	Layer	When?	Equipment
1	CONTINUO BASE	first of two	work begins	stainless steel trowel
2	CONTINUO BASE	second of two	after 3 hours from step 1	stainless steel trowel
3	CONTINUO DECO	first of two	after at least 3 hours from step 2	stainless steel trowel
4	CONTINUO DECO	second of two	after at least 3 hrs. from step 3	stainless steel trowel
5	CONTINUO LINK	one only	after at least 12 hrs. from step 4	roller
6	CONTINUO TOP	first of two	after at least 6 hrs. from step 5	roller
7	CONTINUO TOP	second of two	after at least 3 hrs. from step 6	roller
light traffic			24 hrs. after step 7	
fully usable			after 5 days from step 7	

In the case of very chalked wall surfaces, use **ATOMO**, a water-soluble insulation with high penetration; code 8840001.

ATOMO

Product preparation: dilute the product with clean water. Thinning varies according to the type of background surface to be treated.

- Equipment: brush, roller.
- Mix the product before applying it.
- Thinning: from 50 to 100%, with water.
- No. of coats/layers: 1.
- All tools should be cleaned with water immediately after use.
- Indicative spreading rate: 15-18 sq.m/l.

Given the particular type of already-covered surface area, we recommend carrying out a test on the specific background surface, to establish consumption.

After 2 hrs, the product is ready to be covered with CONTINUO BASE

In cases where there are surfaces coated with non-absorbent ceramic materials, it is necessary apply **PRO LINK**, a bonding primer for ceramic coatings.

PRO LINK

Product preparation: manually blend the product before use.

- Equipment: brush, roller.
- Mix the product before applying it.
- Thinning: ready for use, or max. 10% with water.
- No. of coats/layers: 1.
- All tools should be cleaned with water immediately after use.
- Indicative spreading rate: 15-20 sq.m/l.

After 3 hrs, the product is ready to be coated with CONTINUO BASE.

Between the two coats of **CONTINUO FONDO**, before proceeding with the standard **CONTINUO** cycle, a reinforcing anti-alkali* mesh must be embedded.

*Glass fiber anti-alkali mesh >70 < 90 gr/m² with mesh space from 3.5 mm to 4.5 mm.

Method for laying the mesh: resting the first line of mesh, repeat, bringing together the two edges of the mesh, being careful not to overlap, to avoid unsightly lines which may result even after a long time. Cover the entire surface (Photo 3) taking care to fill in any gaps, to avoid the system from becoming detached, or blemishes from appearing, even after considerable time after application.



Photo 3

5 INDICATIVE SPREADING CAPACITY

The declared spreading capacities/rates are indicative and may vary depending on the condition of the background surface and type of site. For large surfaces, we recommend checking the actual spreading capacity with a preliminary test on the specific background surface.

CONTINUO BASE (referred to the powder): 1.5-2.5 kg/m², in the two layers, depending on the type of work and the condition of the support.

CONTINUO DECO: 1.2-1.5 kg/m² in the two layers, depending on the type of work and the condition of the support. For any additional layer, consider another use of 0.300 g / 0.400gr m².

CONTINUO LINK: 60-70 m² per coat/layer with a suitably mixed and diluted tub (A+B).

CONTINUO TOP: 7-8 m²/l in the two layers.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Background surface

The background surface must be carefully examined and prepared. Given the wide range of options with the CONTINUO system on various surfaces, depending on the background surface nature and characteristics, carefully assess before working. Generally, check the state of its structure and possible actions that may be required to allow CONTINUO to be applied.

Always check the temperature of the background surface to ensure correct hardening of the products.

Warning: air temperature is not a sufficiently significant parameter.

The temperature of the background surface must never go lower than +8 °C. When nearing the minimum temperature, or with high levels of relative humidity of the air, we recommend ventilating the premises to improve product drying/curing.

If you are unsure as to the humidity in the background surface when applying, use a hygrometer.

It may be enough to use a hygrometer measuring with a contact sensor; when working on recently-made screeds, and for work on large surfaces, the direct measurement on the material (e.g. carbide hygrometer) tends to be more reliable. Normally, work should be carried out at a humidity of less than 4%.

Make sure there are no traces of dirt (grease, oil, chemicals) or remove any found, to ensure the CONTINUO system adheres to the background surface and avoids phenomena, even if only partial, of bubbling or detachment.

6.2 Flatness

For the application to be a success, it is important to work on surfaces with good flatness.

Use a straight-edge to check the surface. If you find flatness defects, and bumps and dips, between adjacent tiles, we recommend mechanically polishing the projecting parts with orbital sander with a diamond wheel, Photo 4/5.

Should it prove necessary, you can lay and level a cement-based liquid screed.

If big flatness variations compared to the reference plane are found, other solutions must be found which can restore the flatness to within the normal construction tolerances.

Photographs 4 and 5



6.3 Joins

Large surfaces and concrete floors are generally not flat. In applying these surfaces, joins are created during the works. These meet strictly technical rules, which depend on type.

The joins are divided into “static joins” and “dynamic joins”. Static joins, which are made immediately after laying cement, with a mechanical cut of less than 1 cm deep, may be covered. Their function is to avoid tensions during the hardening phases, and can be seen easily due to the typical distribution grids which are formed on the concrete surfaces in length ranging from 3 to 5 m. After the curing/hardening, which normally lasts at least 12 months, they lose their technical function and can be closed where required.

Functionally instead, the dynamic joins must remain free to take up any structural movements, and must never be joined or coated.

They cannot therefore be covered with construction joins to delimit the various castings, which, in these cases, are as deep as the full thickness of the flooring. It is possible close them with metal systems or sheet-metal flaps.

6.4 Shower box

The CONTINUO system can be applied also inside shower. Some building materials can be sensitive to water; prolonged contact may cause issues unless suitable protection is provided, and no material is able to withstand it adequately.

When applying **CONTINUO** in a shower, before starting, it is essential to check the presence, and the integrity of, the waterproofing membrane. If such integrity is lacking, the surfaces must be prepared with suitable sealing products, following the normal procedures used for tile laying. Before starting to work with the CONTINUO system, carefully prepare the connecting surfaces of the floor-to-wall and the correspondences with the drains.

Before creating the flat plane, check that there is an adequate slope for water draining. To ensure water drainage, the CONTINUO system must not alter the existing slope.

The final protection, with one of the **CONTINUO TOP** finishes, ensures an effective protection. For this context, we recommend applying an extra coat of one of the **CONTINUO TOP** finishes. After **CONTINUO DECO**, apply **CONTINUO LINK** using a brush, making sure to treat the floor-wall join zones.

6.5 On-site environmental conditions

The surfaces must be protected from frost and large temperature changes throughout the application cycle. Do not apply if the temperature of the air, background surface or product is below +10°C or above -35°C, or under the direct sunlight, or on heated surfaces (even if already in the shadow), or on wet or damp surfaces.

The conditions of the ambient and background surface to proceed with application are:

- Ambient temperature: Min. +5 °C - Max. +35 °C
- Ambient relative humidity: <75%
- Temperature of the background surface: Min. +8 °C - Max. +35 °C
- Relative humidity of the background surface: <4%

Application in conditions different from those described above may cause defects of the chemical-physical properties and of the aesthetic result.

6.6 Storing the CONTINUO products

Do not expose the **CONTINUO** products, for long periods, to sources of heat or to temperatures of less than +5°C. If the products are stored at temperatures close to +5°C, then, prior to use, we recommend moving them to a place where there is the appropriate temperature, so that they may adapt to an operating temperature of not less than +10°C. If stored at temperatures lower than +10°C, then condition the products by moving them to a correctly-warmed environment.

Do not use a direct source of heat/warmth, flame, or similar. Low temperatures increase the in-pot viscosity, making it difficult to use and lengthening or inhibiting drying/hardening of the various **CONTINUO** products.

Maximum storage temperature: +35 °C

Minimum storage temperature: +5°C

Stability in the original unopened containers and at suitable temperatures: 1 year for the products in powder, and two-component products, 2 years for the putty products.

7 Cleaning and maintenance of the background surfaces

Routine surface cleaning is done using normal floor cleaning products. Do not use strong alkaline or acid de-scalers, as they could affect the surface of the CONTINUO system and compromise its aesthetic effect.

The surfaces show good resistance to a wide variety of substances used widely in home and office environments.

In general, the surfaces coated with the CONTINUO system can be washed with suitable non-aggressive detergents (neutral), in cold or moderately warm water (never exceed the washing temperature of 40°C; avoid thermal shocks and steam-cleaning).

Do not use brushing machines that can affect and change the properties and aesthetics.

It is a good rule to quickly remove aggressive substances and rinse with water to avoid the prolonged contact and the possible corrosion of the surface of the CONTINUO system.

Prolonged contact must be avoided with lemon juice, vinegar, tomato juice, lime products, and acidic detergents in general.

The maintenance works, particularly if in a portion of the surface area, could result visible. Normally we recommend using the same CONTINUO TOP top coat as that used during first application. Apply the product with short-hair roller, or sponge. The surface can be walked on after 24 hrs.

N.B.: the information given in the TECHNICAL MANUAL derive from our best experience; however, this does not imply that we can assume liability for product applications beyond our direct control.